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East Asia

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Daily Report

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Japan

Japan: Tokyo, Washington: Return of Futenma Air Base Priority

OW2805075396 Tokyo KYODO in English
0731 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Honolulu, May 27 KYODO — Negotiators from Japan and the United States agreed Monday (28 May) to make the return of a key Marine Corps air station in Japan's southernmost prefecture of Okinawa a top priority issue, officials said.

The accord was reached at a meeting in Honolulu of a bilateral special working group discussing the consolidation and downsizing of U.S. bases in Okinawa.

A working team will be established under the group to focus on the return of the Futenma air station, which is located in the town of Ginowan, the officials said.

Japan and the U.S. agreed last month to reduce by one fifth the land occupied by U.S. military facilities in the prefecture, while pledging that land occupied by the 4.8 million-square-meter airfield will be returned to local landowners within five to seven years.

The island prefecture, which makes up only 0.6 percent of Japan's total land area, is home to about 75 percent of U.S. military facilities in Japan in terms of land area and about half of the U.S. troops stationed in Japan under the bilateral security arrangements.

Meanwhile, a group of town heads in Okinawa Prefecture submitted a paper Tuesday that states their opposition to the transfer of U.S. military facilities to other sites in the prefecture, local officials said.

Yomitan Town chief Tokushin Yamauchi submitted the paper to Masuo Morodomi, director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency. It states, "even after the relocation, the town citizens will not have a peaceful life because we will be living under the veil of danger."

Morodomi said he will convey the desires of the village leaders to those officials responsible for the matter.

As part of a plan to reduce the U.S. military presence on the southernmost island prefecture, a heliport is to be transferred from the U.S. Marine Corps Futenma air station after the base shuts down. An area stretching to Yomitan is the most likely site for the new heliport site.

Another problem in the facilities realignment is the storage of ammunition at the Kadena Air Base, the officials said.

Although it comprises less than 1 percent of Japan's total land area, about 75 percent of the U.S. military

facilities in Japan are concentrated in the prefecture in terms of land area.

Japan: Working-Level Talks on U.S. Okinawa Bases Begin

OW2805033096 Tokyo KYODO in English
0255 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Honolulu, May 27 KYODO — Japan and the United States began working-level talks Monday (27 May) on the return of U.S. bases in Japan's southernmost island prefecture of Okinawa.

A special bilateral committee on the bases will discuss the timing of the return of 11 facilities that the U.S. agreed to return in April. Japanese officials said.

The meeting is being held at a U.S. base in Honolulu.

The two countries agreed in April to reduce the land occupied by U.S. military bases in Okinawa prefecture by some 20 percent, including a key airfield to be returned within five to seven years.

About 75 percent of all land used by the U.S. military in Japan is concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture, although the island prefecture makes up only 0.6 percent of Japan's total land area.

The committee will issue its final report by November. The panel was set up last year after local residents called for retrenchment of the huge U.S. military presence in Okinawa.

Japan: MOFA on DPRK, Okinawa Base Issues

OW2305115396 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 21 May 96

[News conference by Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto with unidentified reporters on 21 May; place not given; from the "What's New" link]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Topics of Discussion] Press Conference by the Press Secretary 21 May 1996 I. Japan's recent participation in international efforts for development II. Consultations between Minister for Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda and Minister of Foreign Affairs Klaus Kinkel of the Federal Republic of Germany III. Issues related to North Korea IV. Visit to Japan by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of the People's Republic of Angola V. Reported requests for assistance in opening embassy offices in Tokyo by some African countries VI. Japan-Republic of India relations VII. Issue of United States forces' facilities and areas in Okinawa VIII. Japan's policy towards the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding nuclear issues IX. Japan-United States trade balance

I. Japan's recent participation in international efforts for development

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Very recently, Japan presented its proposal titled "A New Approach to an Agenda for Development" to the Meeting for the United Nations Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development. We regard as very important several points, notably: A new partnership; output-oriented development targets; and reinvesting a part of the savings resulting from reform into the development activities in our detailed proposal. The idea has already been touched upon by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs several times, especially when Minister for Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda attended the 9th Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at Midland, South Africa. Also, at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) high-level assistance committee meeting, we touched upon this. We continuously engage in dialogue on this subject with our counterparts. Looking at the other paper we have circulated, related to the 35th OECD Council at Ministerial Level, you can understand the basic stance of the Government of Japan on the issues that were discussed at the Council.

II. Consultations between Minister for Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda and Minister of Foreign Affairs Klaus Kinkel of the Federal Republic of Germany

Spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto: Yesterday, Foreign Minister Ikeda met Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs Klaus Kinkel of the Federal Republic of Germany. These were the Japan-Germany Regular Foreign Ministerial Consultations. We announced the Action Agenda for the Japan-Germany Partnership. Also, for your reference, we have distributed a paper related to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to the East European and Baltic countries to further assist their reforms.

III. Issues related to North Korea

Q: Yesterday, it was reported by some members of the Kasumi Press Club here that they met with North Korean First Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu. In the statement, Mr. Kang Sok-chu is reported to have mentioned the possibility of North Korea accepting the four-way talks proposed by the Republic of Korea and the United States of America, and they are waiting for an explanation from the States. Does the Foreign Ministry have any comments on this? Also, the reports said that Mr. Kang expressed his uneasiness with Japan linking these four-way talks with normalization

of relations between North Korea and Japan. Could you comment on this?

A: Firstly, on the four-party conference — at my last press conference I explained to you very briefly the content of the tripartite consultations in relation to North Korea. Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States exchanged views about the situation of North Korea. At the same time, they exchanged views on how the North Korean authorities may react to the United States-Republic of Korea proposal of the four-party conference. They noted that the North Korean authorities have not responded yet. The three countries share the same view that this proposal was made jointly by the United States and the Republic of Korea; therefore, if North Korea wants to clarify the content of the proposal, both the United States and the Republic of Korea are available at any time to explain it to them. The Government of Japan fully supports this idea; we simply hope that the North Korean authorities will come directly and listen to the United States and the Republic of Korea on this proposal. On your second question — Mr. Kang Sok-chu's statement was made to the visiting Japanese journalists; it was not made to the Government of Japan. Secondly, the Government of Japan has got to continuously take into account various situations, various elements, in attempting to reopen normalization talks with North Korea, and the Japanese position on North Korea has not changed. I would like to repeat this again; the aims of the talks are: firstly, to normalize the relations between Japan and North Korea since the end of World War II; and secondly, to contribute to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. Of course, Japan intends to cooperate and communicate with the Republic of Korea and the United States on this issue.

Q: Recently the North Korean communist party has been contacting Japanese political parties, and trying to send their delegates to Japan. They want an invitation from some of the political parties, mainly the SDPJ in Japan. It was reported recently the Government of Japan is trying to make a single contact point that would be the Government, not the Japanese political parties. Are there such movements within the Government of Japan?

A: I have got to explain this to you in the following way. First of all, the coalition parties already stated that the normalization talks should be carried out through diplomatic channels — by the Government. Also, the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ) has decided to invite a delegation of North Korean authorities to Japan, and the Government of Japan is not involved in this invitation. However, we understand that the SDPJ has not decided actually when the Party will invite the North Korean guests to Japan. At the same time, according to our understanding, some influential members of the

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have reservations about the invitation; in particular, Chairman of the LDP Policy Research Council Taku Yamasaki officially stated that he personally does not intend to meet the North Korean representative before the four-party conference actually takes place. In any case, this is being done by the political parties and the Government of Japan is not involved.

V. Visit to Japan by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of the People's Republic of Angola

Q: Angola's President dos Santos is visiting Japan next month, and I would like to know if there are any bilateral agreements that can be expected between Japan and Angola to be entered into at the time during his visit.

A: First, speaking generally, Minister for Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda recently visited the Republic of South Africa to attend the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meeting. At that time, he had a chance to meet various representatives of the African countries, and Foreign Minister Ikeda expressed his desire to strengthen the bilateral ties between Japan and the African countries. At the same time, the Government of Japan wants to emphasize that we highly appreciate the efforts undertaken by the African countries for democratization and the introduction of market-oriented economies. As long as these efforts continue, the Government of Japan wants to extend economic cooperation wherever possible. Regarding the schedule of the visit to Japan by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of the People's Republic of Angola — it is categorized as an official working visit, and President dos Santos will visit Japan from 3-6 June. President dos Santos and Mrs. dos Santos will make a State Call on Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, and Their Majesties will host a Court Luncheon in honor of President dos Santos and Mrs. dos Santos. President dos Santos will also have official talks with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. The Government of Japan sincerely welcomes the visit of President dos Santos and Mrs. dos Santos, which will further strengthen the friendly relations existing between Japan and Angola.

V. Reported requests for assistance in opening embassy offices in Tokyo by some African countries

Q: On that same topic, on UNCTAD — there was a working lunch with the Minister of Trade in Midland and some of the African representatives, Foreign Ministers. One of the reports we have is that Japan will assist some of these countries to open embassies in Tokyo — those that are not affluent enough. Do you know anything about this?

A: Basically, what I understand is that, unfortunately, the Government of Japan itself does not own, for example, a building to rent office space for our African colleagues. However, every now and then the Foreign Ministry is approached by the diplomatic corps to make good offices to landowners who can offer better facilities with reasonable prices, and so on.

VI. Japan-Republic of India relations

Q: How does Japan view the recent change of government in India, where a Hindu-based party with religious overtones has assumed power?

A: The Republic of India is a very important country for Japan, and we sincerely hope that we can continuously develop bilateral ties. We understand that, with a new Prime Minister, a new Government has been born in India. We are watching to see whether the new Government will win the vote of confidence by 31 May. Since 1991, the previous Government has been advocating the policy of economic liberalization, and it has been helping in the development of closer ties with Japan. We hope that the new Government will also support the economic liberalization policy. We do not know whether the nuclear policy which was involved in the election manifesto of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will be automatically implemented by the new Government or not. But, we are a little bit concerned about the nuclear policy stated in the election manifesto. In any case, we understand that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a moderate and able politician, and we hope that both Japan and India can deepen mutual understanding. We hope that the Indian Government can understand the Japanese policy on a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), a cut-off treaty, and negotiations on NPCR, and so on.

Q: Suppose the Government is defeated on 31 May, and a left-dominated party comes to power? Will there be any change in your country's attitude towards India?

A: First of all, Japan has no intention to become involved in the internal affairs of India, and secondly —

Q: But the left-dominated party coming to power means there will be a shift in the economic policy, because of certain domestic —

A: What we would like to stress is that we sincerely hope that any Indian Government will continue to implement the economic liberalization policy, which will definitely strengthen our ties in the future.

Q: Suppose there is a slowing down of that policy — of the reforms — will it affect Japan or the relations between Japan and India in any way?

A: This is a very hypothetical question, so I do not want to make direct comment on what you said — but we hope that the liberalization policy continues.

Q: Is more investment going to come into India from Japan?

A: I am sure that, in the past, the liberalization plan has helped strengthen economic ties. India offers a very good market for any country interested in your country, including Japan, and therefore, it is vital for any Indian Government to continue in that direction.

VII. Issue of United States forces' facilities and areas in Okinawa

Q: How does the Foreign Ministry comment on Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota's submission of a bill on U.S. bases in the prefecture of Okinawa? The Okinawa Governor yesterday submitted a bill to the assembly calling for a referendum on the future of the U.S. bases in Okinawa.

A: I have not seen the announcement you refer to. However, when President William Clinton of the United States of America visited Japan in April, Japan and the United States agreed on how to realign, reduce and consolidate the United States facilities and areas in Okinawa. Both Japan and the United States have been endeavoring to implement what was agreed during the visit, and both Governments have committed themselves to prepare the final conclusions on this by November. So, the Central Government is going to implement its commitment. At the same time, on the referendum, I do not know with what or how the Central Government should react. We understand that Okinawa Prefecture itself presented its own so-called action agenda for the reduction of United States bases — especially, they intend to eliminate all the bases within the several years to come. But, we have the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and must abide by that commitment, and we would like to harmonize the requests from the local people and our duties under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

VIII. Japan's policy towards the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding nuclear issues

Q: Coming back to India again, about this nuclear policy — India and Japan have one thing in common regarding nuclear policy. It is fast-breeder technology — I think both India and Japan believe the future of civil use of nuclear energy for production of power is in this particular type of technology. Is there any kind of cooperation between these two countries?

A: Again, I am terribly sorry, but I do not know the particular Japanese policies on this.

Q: Is Japan concerned about India's achievements in the nuclear field, particular with Kashmir in mind, with Pakistan in mind?

A: We have been asking both the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and we think that the NPT is very important. Unless the two countries join the NPT, I think the worldwide non-proliferation regime cannot be established. So, we simply urge your country and Pakistan to join the NPT as soon as possible.

IX. Japan-United States trade balance

Q: Yesterday, it was announced by the Finance Minister that the deficit between imports and exports between Japan and the United States has been decreasing by a serious amount. Are there any reflections coming from the U.S. against this?

A: Already some time ago, the trends which you mentioned started to appear, and already the United States Administration clearly knows about this.

Japan: Panel Views Collective Self-Defense Issue, Elections

OW2805050596 Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese 2230 GMT 25 May 96

[Panel discussion on Far East situation, Japan's collective self-defense right, and other issues among Ichiro Ozawa, president of Shinshinto; Hisahiko Okazaki, diplomatic strategy analyst; Kenichi Takemura, political commentator; and Yuji Kuroiwa and Kaoriko Kuge, FNN television moderators]

[FBIS Summary] Following a brief introduction on recent Far East regional developments, including the defection of a DPRK pilot to the ROK, the panel discussion begins at 2240 GMT. First asked what he thinks of the recent defection, Okazaki says this is merely a sporadic incident in which the pilot may have decided to defect due to personal or other reasons, rather than indicating that the entire DPRK Air Force is having problems, although the situation in the DPRK may indeed be very serious. Okazaki points out that in recent years, the United States has shifted its stance toward the DPRK to an appeasement policy in hope that direct conflict can be avoided for the time being while hoping the DPRK leadership will eventually collapse.

Ozawa says the biggest problem is the critical economic situation in the DPRK, including the acute food shortage. He points out the need to exercise caution in carrying out an appeasement policy since history has shown

that an appeasement policy is often unsuccessful, eventually resulting in costly sacrifices. He says: "The best thing is for the DPRK leadership to democratize the system and rebuild the economy."

Asked about Japan's crisis management capability, Ozawa points out Japan's insufficiency, saying: "I feel it hardly exists at all in the entire Japanese system — not only the Prime Minister's Office — in regard to collecting information, passing it on, and in all other aspects. I feel this is a very serious problem." In this way, Ozawa points out that merely setting up an office at the Prime Minister's Office to handle the collection of information is insufficient and instead, Japan needs to set up a system that covers the entire government structure.

Okazaki points out that some U.S. experts on Japanese-U.S. relations have pointed out that the issue of Japan's collective self-defense right will burden Japanese-U.S. relations in the future. Ozawa says he agrees, adding: "Since problems in Asia are of more concern to Japan than the United States, it is natural that American public understanding cannot be gained if Japan acted like these were someone else's problems."

Turning to the situation in the PRC and PRC-Taiwan relations, Ozawa says that in his meetings with Chinese leaders during his recent trip to the PRC, he cautioned them that Japan and the PRC should sincerely try to establish relations of trust and cooperation, or else, bilateral ties will collapse. Ozawa points out that Chinese political and military leaders are all well aware that failure to completely implement their policy of reform and opening up would lead to the collapse of the existing Chinese political system. As for the problem between the PRC and Taiwan, Ozawa says he told Chinese leaders that since the problem is an internal affair, the two sides should work it out between themselves. Ozawa says he also told Chinese military leaders to restrain military buildup. He says he tried to convince them that even if they claim they possess nuclear arms for defensive purposes, the PRC would appear to pose a threat to other countries. He says he explained to the military leaders that other countries will no longer consider the PRC a threat only after the PRC has successfully reformed and opened up itself.

Asked about how Japan should act in regard to the dispute between the United States and the PRC over intellectual property rights, Ozawa says it is asking too much of the PRC to demand that it immediately control the piracy problem, pointing out that this is a problem that is common to countries in developing stages. Ozawa says: "Since Japan is aware of the PRC's problems, it is Japan's role to make the United States understand."

Turning to the issue of the right of collective self defense, Ozawa emphasizes that everybody should first understand the ideals of the Japanese Constitution before debating the issue. He explains that both the Japanese Constitution and the UN Charter ban the use of force, and that in regard to securing peace, the Japanese Constitution calls for international cooperation, while the UN Charter also calls for joint action to enforce peace. Ozawa points out that Japanese critics have always claimed that any action connected with the use of force is unconstitutional. He stresses that Japan should participate in UN peacekeeping operations, saying: "This is one of the ideals of the Constitution." Ozawa also notes that based on the ideals of the Constitution, Japan can exercise the right of collective self defense against acts that threaten world peace. However, he adds: "The spirit of the Constitution does not allow us to do anything we please freely exercise the right by forming an alliance with any other country."

Asked about the timing of the next general election, Ozawa says it can happen any time after the next fiscal budget is compiled. He expresses strong confidence in winning the next general election, saying: "I am sure that we will win. If we unite and everybody cooperates, I do not see how we can lose."

The panel discussion ends at 2317 GMT.

Japan: Article Views Debate on Collective Defense

OW2805042996 Tokyo AERA in Japanese 27 May 96
pp 26-27

[Article by AERA editorial staff member Toshiaki Miura: "Contradictions in the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangement and the Japanese Constitution: Debate on the Right of Collective Self-Defense Deceptive"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "What I am most afraid of is to move gradually from the right of individual self-defense to the right of collective self-defense, without changing the interpretation of the Constitution." Thus said Shusei Tanaka, vice president of New Party Sakigake, as a guest at a gathering sponsored by organizations affiliated with the Social Democratic Party (SDP) on this year's Constitution Memorial Day.

What is the limit of Japan's cooperation with the U.S. military in case of emergencies in the Far East? With the Japan-U.S. summit in April that redefined the post Cold War Japan-U.S. security arrangement as a turning point, studies are planned for concrete actions supporting the United States. In this connection, defining the right of collective self-defense, the exercise of which is prohibited by the Constitution, has become a focal point politically. Tanaka's remarks represented apprehension expressed by the so-called Constitution protectionists.

However, the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between Japan and the United States of America is based on the right of collective self-defense in the first place. In connection with the way the question is raised as to what action would conflict with the right of collective self-defense, Prof. Toshiki Mogami at International Christian University — among other international law specialists — pointed out, "the arena on which the debates are being conducted is itself ambiguous." He added, "it is certainly questionable to have such a discussion, without hitting at that point, that the right of collective self-defense cannot be tolerated while the right of individual self-defense is all right."

Collective and Individual Defense Rights are National Prerogative

In international law, the right of self-defense has come to be recognized as the right of protecting a country from unlawful foreign aggression as an exception after wars were ruled as unlawful after World War I. By the United Nations Charter in 1945, such an inherent right of self-defense was interpreted to be the right of individual self-defense, and the right of UN members to jointly deal with armed attacks has come to be recognized as the right of collective self-defense. Behind this was the situation wherein Latin American nations which were to sign a mutual assistance treaty wanted to secure a free hand to take collective military actions. Thus, an armed attack against a member of the alliance is construed as an attack against the alliance although it is not directly attacked, and invoking the right of counterattack is recognized as a kind of self-defense right.

Article 51 of the UN Charter recognizes the rights of individual and collective self-defense as a nation's inherent right, and allied relationships formed during the Cold War days topped by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] were based on this article.

Japan has maintained the governmental interpretation of Article 9 of the Constitution that it can exercise only the right of individual self-defense. With regard to the right of collective self-defense, succeeding cabinets have explained that "Japan has the right but constitutionally it cannot be exercised." It is because of this interpretation that moving to the right of collective self-defense is branded unconstitutional.

The Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, however, recognizes in its preamble the fact that the two nations have the right of collective self-defense. The treaty provides in Article 5 that the common danger will be dealt with in accordance with "its constitutional provisions and processes." Here arises the restriction that Japan "cannot exercise the right of collective self-defense."

Leading international law specialists including Prof. Shigejiro Tabata at Kyoto University have been critical of this logic since the days of revision of the security treaty in 1960. According to Prof. Yoshiro Matsui at Nagoya University, the main argument is that "the joint defense provided in Article 5 of the security treaty cannot be explained only by the right of individual self-defense. Under certain circumstances, Japan is obliged to invoke the right of collective self-defense."

Government Interpretation is Unreasonable

Suppose there is an attack on U.S. troops stationed in Japan. Under the treaty's obligations, the U.S. troops and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces will jointly launch counterattacks. In such a case, the U.S. troop activities not only involve invoking the right of individual self-defense in the sense of protecting themselves but also invoking the right of collective self-defense because they are designed to safeguard Japanese territory at the same time. As to the counterattacks launched by the Self-Defense Forces, the government denies the invocation of the right of collective self-defense and says it was only exercising the right of individual self-defense. On 13 February 1960, Shuzo Hayashi, the then Director-General of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau, explained that "attacks against U.S. troops stationed in Japan cannot be made without invading the territorial land, sea and air space. In the sense of removing them, Japan will invoke the right of individual self-defense."

It is apparent that the counterattacks launched by the Self-Defense Forces would be intended to protect the U.S. troops stationed in Japan. If the foreign military attacks are pinpointed only at the U.S. troops and there is no danger to or damage inflicted upon the vicinities, they are simply violating Japanese territory. Suppose such an event takes place and in reality the Self-Defense Forces cannot help but counterattack, then such a counterattack would have to be based on the right of collective self-defense. That was the question scholars specializing in international law have raised.

Prof. Matsui said, "Because few scholars argued to support the government position, the matter seemed not to have become the subject of discussion. It has long been an indisputable fact for scholars of international law."

Debate Not Focussing on the Right Thing

The government, however, has not abandoned the policy of "individual self-defense right." All of a sudden, the views of those who profess to safeguard the Constitution have acknowledged the government standpoint by saying, "It is alright within the scope of the right of

individual self-defense but the right of collective self-defense cannot be permitted."

Prof. Matsui criticized this by saying, "Because they belong to different academic societies, scholars of the Constitution and of international law have failed to present clear cut views based on either the Constitution or international law." He added, "They might have intended to check the government with regard to the right of individual self-defense by joining this debate but this was wrong in the first place. The government answers have covered the true nature of the right of collective self-defense with the veil of the right of individual self-defense. That veil is getting thinner and thinner. That is the way the postwar security arrangement has been discussed so far."

Even when the debate on self-defense goes into specifics in the future on whether it should be individual or collective, the debaters would be drawn to recognize whatever the government says, because the debate was not focussed on the right thing from the start. That is the apprehension voiced by scholars of international law.

A senior official of the Foreign Ministry's Treaties Bureau says, "There is almost no debate in the world on classifying whether the right of self-defense is collective or individual. There is no sense of dividing them, because ordinary countries recognize both of them. This is a debate of a particularly Japanese nature and internationally the topic is brushed aside with a 'So what?' attitude." That means there is no example in foreign countries to act as a model of classification.

In postwar Japan, the Constitution and the Japan-U.S. security treaty have co-existed while embracing contradictions within them. From the view of scholars of international law, there must be continued appeal against the unreasonableness regarding debate on the right of self-defense.

Serious Problem Equivalent to Amendment of the Constitution

Meanwhile, there is an argument whether the Japan-U.S. security arrangement which a majority of the Japanese people have come to affirm is desirable or not. Problems in overcoming the differences remain.

Prof. Mogami believes, "it is the politicians' responsibility to propose an amendment to a law if that law is too far away from the people's policy choices." He added, "I personally think that the basic way of thinking of the Constitution has to be upheld. But the politicians who pile up established facts by presenting differing interpretations of the Constitution have the responsibility to face the people and appeal for an amendment to the Constitution. Then the people would understand that

this is a major problem corresponding to a constitutional amendment. Unless there is such a tense feeling, I do not think that laws can restrain reality."

Japan: LDP, SDP Toning Down Security Cooperation

OW2805064396 Tokyo AERA in Japanese 20 May 96
PP 20-22

[Article by AERA editorial staff member Toshiaki Miura: "LDP and SDP Go All Out To Tone Down Controversy Over Emergency Cooperation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokuichiro Tamazawa, former Defense Agency director-general, and James Auer [as published], former U.S. Defense Department Japan section chief, were on hand at a gathering held the evening of 28 April at the private residence of a Japanese businessman in Washington, D.C. Tamazawa was on a U.S. tour as deputy chief of mission composed of Diet members of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Research Commission on Security Arrangements, of which chairman is Tsutomu Kawara. On the previous day, the group had completed its New York itinerary, and moved to Washington on 28 April. The evening gathering was a totally unofficial and individual one for Tamazawa.

Auer has been advocating that Japan should make more efforts for defense. That was why Tamazawa had felt that he needed to have a talk with him. Discussions, with participation by Japanese students majoring in international politics in the United States, lasted for three and a half hours. According to Tamazawa, the following exchange took place between them.

Auer: It is desirable that the Maritime Self-Defense Force be made to cooperate with the U.S. Navy in certain ways. Is it not possible for Japan to interpret the collective self-defense right flexibly?

Tamazawa: Do you mean that an amendment to Article 9 of the Constitution is desired?

Auer: No, a constitutional amendment is not desired.

That was the point Tamazawa had hoped to confirm.

At the Japan-U.S. summit held in April to review the post-Cold War Asian situation, a joint declaration was issued in support of strengthening the alliance between the two countries. In exchange for the total return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, it was decided that efforts will be made in anticipation of emergencies in the Far East. Before and after the summit in Japan, the pros and cons of the collective self-defense right have been feverishly debated in anticipation of security challenges in the Far East.

LDP and SDP Give Priority to Maintaining Coalition

The three ruling coalition parties — the LDP, the SDP, and Sakigake have agreed to initiate a review of the 1978 "Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation" (Gaidorain) within the scope of the Constitution. Of course there are slight differences between the parties. The LDP insists that subjects of debate should include such cases as supplying fuel and allowing use of domestic airports by the U.S. military as specific examples of cooperation in time of emergency. On the contrary, the SDP strongly favors the view that cooperation should be limited to such humanitarian support as receiving sick and wounded soldiers. But the two parties at this moment have no intention of breaking up their coalition setup because of this problem.

Against this, President Ichiro Ozawa of the New Frontier Party [NFP] totally reversed the view he had held thus far and hammered out a change in interpretation of the Constitution, that "the right to collective self-defense is constitutional," a move intended to harass the coalition regime. The political circle interpreted it as a preliminary move by Ozawa to realize an "alliance of the conservative and conservative" to reunite those who had belonged to the former LDP camp by emphasizing the security arrangement policy. Tamazawa, who claims that "the majority of the LDP members supports the coalition of the LDP, the SDP and Sakigake," was getting more and more cautious about the heated debate centered on the political situation.

Tamazawa said, "The LDP has no intention of debating on the right to collective self-defense." He added, "If the collective self-defense right is recognized, it will arouse anxiety among neighboring countries in Asia — a big minus for Japan. The United States, well aware of the domestic situation of Japan, does not want a change in the interpretation of the Japanese constitution."

One of the objectives of the LDP mission was to confirm that the United States understands the posture of the coalition regime, which intends to initiate defense efforts within the framework of the constitution. The response of the United States was in step. The itinerary was so congested that the mission had to attend 20 meetings in five days, but "almost nobody demanded a constitutional amendment or the collective self-defense right," according to a member of the mission.

Defense Secretary William J. Perry, whom the mission met at the end of the U.S. tour, agreed: "It is all right for the Japanese side to decide in a concrete manner, within the constitutional framework. I think the guidelines will take shape while making a flexible response."

A member of the mission interpreted it as follows: "What the United States wants is to make actual progress. For that purpose, we want Japan to take time as much as possible to make some progress."

Opinions Unlike the NFP President's Exist Within the Party

Around the same time, an SDP delegation led by Vice Chairman Kosuke Uehara was visiting Washington, D.C. The plan for the two parties to meet Secretary Perry jointly to avoid any impression that the ruling coalition parties are splitting up had to be scrapped because of their different itineraries. But the two party delegations were present at a dinner reception at the official residence of the Japanese ambassador to the United States. The atmosphere at the dinner table was said to have been so cordial that the LDP side proposed that "the next director-general of the Self Defense Agency be designated from the SDP."

Around the same time, NFP President Ozawa for the first time after his assumption of the post traveled abroad, to China. At Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing, he called on former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, whose visit to China happened to take place almost the same time. At a roundtable talk with the accompanying press corps, he indicated the possibility of cooperating with the LDP on specific policies by saying, "If the issue is an important one, we will cooperate with the LDP even if it is a minority regime of its own."

But LDP Secretary-General Koichi Kato, representing the coalition side, flatly rejected it and said, "It is possible to initiate a reexamination of the Japan-U.S. security cooperation and so forth in the mutual trust of the three parties."

Meanwhile, in connection with the collective self-defense right, opposing views have been raised from within the NFP, shaking the foothold of Ozawa himself.

On Constitution Memorial Day on 3 May, the political party "Komei," which is on friendly terms with the NFP and composed mainly of local assemblymen, held a street meeting in front of the Shinjuku railroad station. It has been an annual event since the days of the former Komeito days. A series of speeches delivered there clearly indicated the agonies the NFP faces.

Toshiko Hamayotsu, a member of the House of Councilors, said, "Japan has kept hoisting an ideal of peace, for which Japan has to take the leadership in the world and Asia. To the contrary, restructuring of the security arrangement with the United States and studies of emergency cases are undertaken quite freely. No definition

has been presented as to what the collective self-defense right is."

This was in line with Komei's clear denial of the collective self-defense right. But paying due consideration to Ozawa, Naohiko Okubo, a member of the House of Councilors and the chairman of Heiseikai in the upper house, presented a different view.

Okubo said, "After the Asian visit by President Bill Clinton, words came up that had been unheard of thus far, such as legislation for emergencies. There are problems that cannot be dealt with under present laws. What are assumed to be emergencies? This has to be seriously discussed, to do away with the all-or-nothing attitude."

His assertion could be taken either way, pros and cons. The masterpiece of all was what Komei President Tomio Fujii, a member of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, said:

"From within the LDP comes a rush of voices calling for an interpretation that the collective self-defense right does not violate the Constitution. We have to uphold the principles of the Constitution to the last. Today is the most important Constitution Memorial Day of all times."

It was clearcut logic, except for the strange failure to make any reference to the fact that Ozawa himself has recognized the collective self-defense right as constitutional. The Soka Gakkai, Komei's backbone, has constantly hoisted the banner of antiwar and peace. Therefore, it is clear that the collective self-defense right is a barrier that cannot be passed.

Besides, there are the following views from within the NFP:

Former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa says, "Without bothering to refer to the collective self-defense right, it is possible to distinguish what can be done from what cannot be done on specific matters."

Hajime Funada, acting chairman of the General Council, says, "It is absolutely impossible to read in the lines of the present Constitution that the collective self-defense right can be invoked."

Kazuo Aichi, chairman of the Policy Deliberation Council, says, "The majority within the party is on the side of constitutionality," but the realities are far from it."

Although Ozawa had initiated discussions on the collective self-defense right, the ruling coalition side for the present is united in defense; and the United States took the side of the coalition, leaving a crevice in the foothold of Ozawa.

It is true, however, that there are differences of temperature with relation to the security arrangement policy among political parties and within the same political party. From a long-range view, the possibility remains of its becoming a powder keg that may set off a political realignment.

Unavoidable Circumstances Within the Hardset SDP

On Constitution Memorial Day, an SDP-affiliated gathering was held at the Hibiya Public Hall in Tokyo. When SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama, who participated in the gathering, delivered greetings with the words, "it has to be clearly reminded that the Constitution exists when the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation are discussed, and it has to be strictly observed that the permissible limit of the Constitution must not be trespassed," a big voice was heard from the crowd: "No legislation should be allowed for emergencies in the Far East."

Since taking part in the coalition regime, the SDP has recognized the Self-Defense Forces and the Japan-U.S. security treaty, almost without going through deliberations within the party. Immediately before the Japan-U.S. summit, it made public the policy of "coordinated security arrangements," with emphasis on multinational dialogue to prevent conflicts, in an attempt to display its own color. The difference of views on the security problem from that of the LDP will naturally become a sales point when it slips out of the part of the ruling party.

"Logic of Numbers" Rather Than Sense of Value

Similar situations exist within the LDP. On 7 May, after an extended holiday period, the LDP mission to the United States reported to the executives' liaison meeting that it had obtained a U.S. understanding about Japan's initiating works within the framework of the Constitution. The LDP's House of Councilors secretary general, Masakuni Murakami, known as a hawk, picked a quarrel with it, by saying, "It does not matter that foreign countries can express their opinion on it." He added that "the Constitution should be amended and the interpretation of the collective self-defense right should also be rectified."

This may be an extreme opinion, but it is true that there exists a power bloc that wishes to smooth out the discussions on the Constitution at this time.

Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the LDP's Policy Research Council, has cherished a view in support of an amendment to Article 9 of the Constitution. At a Japan National Press Club meeting in April, he faltered in an-

swering a question on a possible political realignment centering around the Japan-U.S. security policy.

He said, "I cannot make a careless comment, but in the analysis of the actual political strength, the number of those who say the collective self-defense right is constitutional must be determined. A government cannot be formed with half of the LDP and half of the NFP. What matters here is not logic but numbers."

He added, "Do not ask me what I am going to do. Because I am with the LDP's executive department, I have to be discreet in words and actions."

Japan: Prefecture Wants Removal of U.S. Military Exercise Area

OW2305130096 Tokyo KYODO in English
1215 GMT 23 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 23 KYODO — Daijiro Hashimoto, governor of Kochi prefecture, on Thursday [23 May] urged Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama to work for the removal of a U.S. military exercise area in the sea off the western Japanese prefecture, the governor said.

Kajiyama in reply asked Hashimoto, the younger brother of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, to understand that the entire Japanese people must take account of the burden of the U.S. military presence under the bilateral security alliance.

Local fishery associations and the Kochi prefectural assembly have demanded the removal of the training area.

Japan: Agency To Ask Okinawa for Help on Forced Land Use

OW2405150296 Tokyo KYODO in English
1439 GMT 24 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, May 24 KYODO — Government officials said Friday [24 May] they will ask Okinawa governor Masahide Ota to act in place of a rebellious village head who refuses to comply with procedures needed to extend the forced lease for a plot of land inside a U.S. Marine communications facility.

Officials from the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau will make the request Tuesday because Tokushin Yamauchi, head of the village of Yomitan where the facility is located, refuses to announce the forced lease and is not likely to change his mind by the Monday deadline.

The U.S. military use of a 236-square-meter plot inside the U.S. facility has been without a clear legal basis since its lease contract expired at the end of March.

The law does not set a deadline for the governor to comply with the request, but the officials said they would give him about two weeks to make a decision.

Should Ota, who is already involved in a court battle with the central government over his refusal to sign documents needed to extend forced land leases, again refuse to cooperate as is widely expected, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will ask the Home Affairs Ministry to order him to cooperate.

At the same time the central government would also likely seek a court order asking the governor to perform his official duties, the officials said.

The law on special measures pertaining to land leased to the U.S. military stipulates that the administrative head of the community publicly announce the extension of a forced lease within two weeks of notification by the central government.

If no public announcement is made before the deadline, the Defense Facilities Administration Agency is obliged to ask the governor to implement the necessary procedure.

Japan: Okinawa Base Attitudes Irritate National Ruling Parties

OW2705055096 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese
24 May 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the meeting with Okinawa Governor Ota held at the prefectural government building on 23 May, the ruling parties' project team in charge of issues related to U.S. bases in Okinawa exchanged views with representatives from the prefectural assembly, Okinawa Military Landowners Association, All Japan Garrison Forces Labor Union, and mayors of eight cities and towns in northern and mid-Okinawa where U.S. military bases are located. Following the Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee on Okinawa's (SACO) interim report proposing complete return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, the project team emphasized that the prefectural government needs to energetically persuade, in cooperation with the central government, municipalities where some functions of military bases would be relocated. Regarding the issue on forced lease of land for military use, the project team hinted at the possibility of enacting a special law, saying that the system for using land for military purpose needs to be drastically reviewed for the sake of firmly maintaining the bilateral security alliance. These requests express that the ruling parties have strong dissatisfaction with the prefectural government's handling of this matter presented after the announcement of the SACO's interim report. The prefectural government is

likely to have difficulty in negotiations with the central government and the ruling parties about details of SACO's final proposal on return of U.S. military facilities to be announced in November.

Participating in the project team are; Taro Nakayama, (Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] member and head of the project team); Eisuke Mori, (LDP member); Hidehisa Otsuji, (LDP member); Issei Inoue, (Social Democratic Party [SDP] member); Shun Oide, (SDP member); Kosuke Uehara, (SDP member); and Seiji Maehara, (New Party Sakigake member). This is the second inspection of U.S. military bases by the ruling parties' mission, following the one last October.

As for the two government's agreement to relocate 11 facilities as proposed in the SACO's interim report, Ota first explained that municipalities, where those facilities will be relocated, have opposed the accord because most of those facilities will be relocated with conditions. He then strongly requested that the government should not give "discriminatory" treatment to Okinawa to hold on to the bilateral security treaty.

In response, the ruling parties' mission pointed out the need for the prefectural government to serve as a mediator between the central government and concerned municipalities. As for the "illegal occupation" of part of land lots used for U.S. Sobe Communications Station in Yomitan Village, as well as the issue involving the forced lease of land for military use, which is due to expire in May next year, the project team hinted that there is no other way but to promote enactment of new laws to have land available for U.S. military bases in line with the bilateral security arrangements. Some team members were irritated by the fact that the central and the prefectural governments have failed to make sufficient arrangements, and said in a harsh tone: "We cannot avoid complications in dealing with the base issue. The prefectural government and the ruling parties should show each other their true intentions," (as stated by Oide).

In response, Ota displayed a negative attitude toward enactment of special laws, saying: "So long as there is the situation in which individual's property rights are infringed, it is natural that expropriation of land would take time. Taking strong actions for forced land lease will heighten Okinawans' anger."

Although it had stressed its stand of seeking dialogue with the prefectural government during its previous visit, the ruling parties' project team clearly expressed its distrust of the prefectural government this time, and demanded the prefectural government cooperate with the central government.

The prefectural government briefed the mission about the Action Program on Return of Military Bases, as well as the Concept for Building the International City. However, team members posed questions about those programs. For example, Uehara said, "Although the prefectural government seeks to completely remove military bases by 2015, has Okinawans' consensus been built?" Oide said: "Although the prefectural government hopes for return, some landowners say they would have trouble if their land is returned. How does the prefectural government try to coordinate their views?"

Then, the prefectural assembly explained a plan on prefectural referendum; Okinawa Military Landowners Association explained its view about the plan on use of military land after its return and compensation for landowners; All Japan Garrison Forces Labor Union, the question of ensuring job opportunities for base employees; and the Naha City mayor and seven other municipality heads, the degree of damage inflicted by U.S. military bases.

In response, Nakayama said, "In view of results of inspection and discussion, we would like to talk about this matter within the ruling parties, and decide details."

Japan: Government Considering Okinawa Development Program

OW2505150296 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 25 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The government decided on 24 May to study the possibility of working out more substantial programs for the development of Okinawa in an effort to obtain the Okinawan people's understanding of the U.S. military base issue. Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama, Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, Defense Agency Director General Hideo Usui, and Okinawa Development Agency Director General Saburo Okabe confirmed the decision in their talks at the prime minister's official residence. The government is also thinking of setting up a minister-level consultative body on overall Okinawan issues.

With regard to the compulsory use of private land within the U.S. military facilities in Okinawa Prefecture, the four cabinet members agreed on the following view: "The issue cannot be solved only from the theoretical viewpoint on improvement of the existing laws. Comprehensive measures must be worked out." They confirmed the intention to urge the task force comprised of Okinawa prefectural officials and relevant ministries and agencies to activate discussion.

Japan: Okinawa May Cooperate With Tokyo Over U.S. Base

OW2705091596 Tokyo KYODO in English
0818 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, may 27 KYODO — Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota hinted Monday [27 MAY] that he might cooperate with the central government in continuing the forced rental of local land to the U.S. military, if the Supreme Court orders him to do so.

"What kind of decision the court, one of the three branches of government, will make on the issue is an extremely important question," said Ota at a press conference, showing he will respect the upcoming decision to be given by the top court.

The governor took the land dispute with the central government to the Supreme Court on April 1, filing an appeal against the March 25 decision from a local high court that ordered him to sign documents needed to force 35 unwilling landowners in Okinawa Prefecture to continue leasing their land to the U.S. military.

Obtaining signatures for official papers pertaining to the land in question is the first step for the central government to gain permission by the local land expropriation committee to forcibly lease the land.

On Tuesday, the Defense Facilities Administration Agency is expected to ask Ota to take a second step in the procedures in place of a rebellious village mayor.

Tokushin Yamauchi, head of the village of Yomitan, where a U.S. military facility is located, refuses to take the second step of announcing local residents that the central government has asked for the forced use of their land.

Asked whether Ota would make the announcement as a proxy after the Monday deadline for the mayor, the governor said, "our prefectural staff may say we should wait for the decision by the Supreme Court or maintain that we should decide the issue before that." "I cannot say what steps I will take now."

The trial at the Okinawa Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee on whether it should grant the forced land use cannot begin unless the announcement procedure is taken by the heads of relevant local communities.

Japan: Okinawa Governor To Oversee U.S. Base Issue Compliance

OW2805015796 Tokyo KYODO in English
0124 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, May 28 KYODO — The Defense Facilities Administration Agency asked

Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota on Tuesday [28 May] to act in place of a village head who refuses to comply with procedures needed to extend the forced rental for a plot of land inside a U.S. Navy's communication facility.

Officials from the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau visited the Okinawa prefectural government building to make the request.

Tokushin Yamauchi, head of the village of Yomitan where the facility is located, has refused to announce publicly that there has been a call for a ruling for the forced rental of land.

The law does not set a deadline for the governor to comply with the request, but agency officials said they would give him about two weeks to make a decision.

The central government is waiting for a ruling on a request it submitted to the Okinawa prefectural expropriation committee for compulsory use of the land.

Shochi Chibana, a 48-year-old shop owner, has refused to rent his 236-square-meter plot of land which is part of a 530,000-sq.-meter tract on which the Sobe communications facility in the southernmost island prefecture stands.

The lease contract for the plot expired at the end of March after Ota refused last November to sign documents needed for the continued forced use of land owned by local landowners.

Ota took the measure following the public outcry over the rape of a local elementary schoolgirl last September for which three U.S. servicemen were sentenced to prison terms.

Chibana is one of some 3,000 local landowners opposed to leasing their land to the U.S. military.

On May 11, the Okinawa prefectural committee rejected a central government request for emergency use of Chibana's land for six months.

The committee, an independent body consisting of seven local lawyers and scholars, turned down the request at its fourth meeting saying the government had not provided enough reasons to back it.

Japan: Municipalities Demand Prior Notice for Base Relocations

OW2805092396 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 28 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[From the 28 May Morning Edition]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 27 May, the prefectural governors' liaison council (chaired by Kanagawa Governor Hiroshi Okazaki), which is comprised of 14 prefectures

that are home to U.S. bases, submitted to Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and Masuo Morodomi, Defense Facilities Administration Agency director general, a petition calling for the government to give concerned municipalities prior notification concerning the relocation of U.S. military facilities.

The petition noted that changes in U.S. base functions, such as the redeployment of units, "have a great influence on the people's living environment," and demanded that "the government provide in advance, sufficient information to concerned municipalities."

Japan: Civic Groups Urge Halt to Port Call by Carl Vinson

OW2705124596 Tokyo KYODO in English
1217 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yokosuka, Japan, may 27 KYODO — Ten civic groups urged the mayor of Yokosuka, southwest of Tokyo, on Monday [27 May] to appeal to the U.S. military for suspension of a planned port call by the U.S. Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Carl Vinson and accompanying warships.

The Kanagawa Peace Movement Center and nine other groups submitted written requests separately to the mayor, Hideo Sawada, ahead of the battle group's brief visit to Yokosuka Port Thursday en route to the Persian Gulf, group members said.

The center said in its representation that a port call by a nuclear carrier at a time when calls are mounting for reduction in U.S. military bases in Japan would lead to base reinforcement. It also voiced concern that Yokosuka might be made a mother port for another nuclear warship.

The city later asked the Foreign Ministry to urge the U.S. side to ensure safe navigation during the port call, municipal officials said.

Japan: Okinawans Launch 10-City Anti-U.S. Military Campaign

OW2705023796 Tokyo KYODO in English
0159 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, May 27 KYODO — The Okinawa Prefectural Government will launch a campaign in 10 cities nationwide Tuesday [27 May] to seek support for the resolution of issues resulting from the huge U.S. military presence on this southwestern Japanese island, officials said Monday.

The latest campaign, which follows a similar one in eight cities nationwide in February, will involve exhibitions detailing the battle of Okinawa during World War II and U.S. bases in Okinawa, they said.

During the campaign, scholars and lawyers from Okinawa will give lectures on base-related problems and traditional Okinawan dances will be performed, they said.

The campaign will be conducted in Chiba on Tuesday, Kawasaki on Wednesday, Urawa on Thursday, Sendai on Saturday, Shinjo, Yamagata prefecture on Sunday, Nagasaki on June 4, Yamaguchi on June 5, Kochi on June 7, Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture on June 8, and Kagoshima on June 9.

Japan: Yomitan Rally Adopts Protest Against Airfield Project

OW2305125296 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO
in Japanese 20 May 96 Morning Edition p 22

["Summary" of a resolution adopted on 19 May at the Yomitan Villagers Rally on opposing a plan to build a new airfield in the Yomitan village area based on an accord reached between the Japanese and U.S. Governments concerning the return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Contrary to the growing public opinion among Okinawan people concerning the demand for the return of U.S. military bases, the plan fails to notice the abnormal and overcrowded situation of the U.S. military bases in Okinawa, and completely ignores the blood-stained appeals concerning the Okinawan people's human and living rights. Thus, we cannot help but feel anger and indignation from the very bottom of our hearts.

In Yomitan village, there are five U.S. military bases that account for about 47 percent of the village's total area. In particular, accidents in parachuting exercises, with U.S. servicemen landing outside the training field, have been reported repeatedly on many occasions at the Yomitan auxiliary airfield located in the village's central area. Among these accidents, we will never forget the sad accident that took place in 1965 in particular: Takako Tanabara, a fifth-grader at that time, was killed by a trailer that had dropped in the yard of her house.

In the areas close to the location where the new airfield is planned, there are such small communities as Kina, Oyashi, Highland, Zakimi, Namihira, Takashiho and Nagahama; Kina primary school, as well as Yomitan primary and middle schools; the site of the ancient Zakimi Castle; the village's hall of historical and folklore materials; the Yamuchin pottery Town which is a base for promoting traditional artcraft; the Aloha golf range, and a factory of the Okinawa Ham Co. Moreover, there is a dam for agricultural purposes that covers an area of 280 hectares. In the neighboring area is a forest

reserved for cultivating trees for the dam's fountainhead. A bypass is planned in this area to settle the traffic jam problem on National Highway Route 58.

In this way, many cultural, educational, and economic facilities are located in this area, and the area is thickly covered with Ryukyu pine trees. To build a new airfield by destroying such a natural environment is a concept which is utterly absurd at a time when environmental protection is being hotly debated on a global basis.

For over fifty years, the Okinawan people have been trampled down and discriminated against because of the policy on military bases adopted by the Japanese and U.S. Governments. In response to the new attempt to force us to agree to the plan for building a new airfield, we have decided to take the first step in this new struggle. We, the villagers, are determined to protect our living and natural environments by ourselves, and build a bright future for our children. We will hereby seriously protest against the plan to build a new airfield in the Yomitan village area in connection with the return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma by the Japanese and U.S. Governments, and demand that the plan be withdrawn.

Japan: Symposium on Securing Jobs After U.S. Bases Returned

OW2805055496 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese
26 May 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] On the afternoon of 25 May, a symposium on the return of U.S. bases and ways to secure the employment of base workers was held at Ginowan Civic Hall, sponsored by All Japan Garrison Forces Labor Union's [GFLU] Okinawa Chapter. About 500 people participated in the gathering. They were mostly base workers who called for securing their jobs and guaranteeing their employment status after the return of U.S. bases. The symposium brought out the fact that base workers have increasingly become worried that they may lose their jobs as the Japanese and U.S. Governments have promoted preparations for the consolidation and reduction of U.S. military bases, including Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma. The participants confirmed that they would urge the central government to promote the return of military bases, draw up plans for the utilization of returned military-occupied land, and work out measures to secure the employment of base workers.

Okinawa Vice Governor Masanori Yoshimoto attended the meeting as a panelist. He pointed out the possibility of creating jobs for base workers through the development of the western coastal areas of Naha and Urasoe cities. Indicating his positive stand on the relocation of

Naha Military Port to Urasoe City, he said: "I would like to pose a question on whether or not Okinawan residents will agree to the plan to develop proposed reclaimed land in Urasoe City and use it jointly with the U.S. military."

The vice governor also disclosed that the prefectural government would soon conduct an opinion poll of base workers and a council to be established for talks with the GFLU will initiate studies on how to secure their jobs.

Meanwhile, referring to the prefectural office's call for the complete return of military facilities by 2015, Social Democratic Party Vice Chairman Kosuke Uehara said: "The prefectural office has placed a priority on the return of military facilities. But we need to discuss whether the prefecture should deny the Japan-U.S. security pact and call for the removal of U.S. bases just like the mass movement does, or should it seek a steady, gradual reduction of the U.S. military presence despite opposition from some quarters." He added: "The prefecture will be able to depart from its dependence on revenues stemming from military bases if the return of U.S. bases, including MCAS Futenma, is steadily promoted." In this way, he called on the prefectural office and people to respond flexibly to the Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee on Okinawa's (SACO) interim report, which attaches conditions to the relocation of U.S. bases.

Hiroshi Nakachi, a professor at the University of the Ryukyus, moderated the symposium. Besides Uehara and Yoshimoto, participating as panelists were Keiichi Inamine, chairman of the Okinawa Employers' Association; Masahiro Toguchi, chairman of Rengo [Japanese Trade Union Confederation] Okinawa chapter; and Moritake Tomikawa, a professor at Okinawa Kokusai University.

In his keynote speech, Seigen Yamauchi, head of GFLU Okinawa chapter, noted that there were about 800 Japanese employees working at 11 military facilities, including MCAS Futenma, which Japan and the United States have agreed to return to local landowners. He said: "Their anxiety will grow if base return programs and plans for the utilization of returned land are worked out when there are no measures to secure their jobs." He then made six proposals, including those for adopting emergency measures to secure employment after the return of MCAS Futenma, compiling an employment program, and offering vocational training for base workers who will change their occupations.

Japan: Insurance Talks With U.S. To Reopen 28 May

OW2405233996 Tokyo KYODO in English
2309 GMT 24 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 25 KYODO — Japan and the United States will resume talks in Washington on Tuesday (28 May) on the disputed insurance agreement, a finance ministry official said late Friday (24 May).

The two-day talks will be attended by Haruhiko Kuroda, deputy director general of the ministry's International Finance Bureau, and Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative James Southwick, the official said.

The two countries failed to narrow the gap in their insurance market dispute at two-day working-level talks that ended in Tokyo on Wednesday.

Ministry officials say the two countries remain "wide apart," particularly on the scope of so-called "third-sector" products to be handled by Japanese life and nonlife insurance firms through subsidiaries.

The third sector covers sickness, accident and nursing insurance products, areas where foreign companies are strong.

The U.S. recently offered to allow Japanese subsidiaries access to more than 50 percent of the third-sector market as a compromise in the thorniest issue of the bilateral insurance dispute, according to a senior U.S. administration official.

Japan's new insurance law, which took effect April 1, allows life and nonlife insurance companies to enter each other's turf through subsidiaries.

At the center of the insurance dispute is the degree to which the subsidiaries should be allowed to handle third-sector products under the 1994 Japan-U.S. Insurance Accord.

Japan: Negotiators on Extension of Insurance Talks Deadline

OW2805032796 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 27 May 96 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Japanese and U.S. negotiators will try to wind up talks on the disputed insurance agreement this week, but it is observed that they are already considering extending the self-imposed 1 June deadline. This is because Japan and the United States are still wide apart on the issue of Japanese insurance companies' entering the so-called third sector, which covers accident and other insurance products, areas where foreign companies are strong. However, there is not much leeway, since even if the deadline were to

be extended, negotiations would have to be concluded by July when Japanese insurance companies will set up subsidiaries to handle third-sector products.

The Ministry of Finance [MOF] and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) plan to hold a working-level meeting on 28 May. This will be followed by a final meeting between higher-ranking officials who will try to reach an agreement by the 1 June deadline. However, hardly anybody expects the dispute will be settled. A U.S. Government authority has indicated that "it is possible to extend the deadline," while an MOF official has expressed approval, saying "as long as it is a short extension."

Even if the deadline were to be extended, the MOF faces the task of issuing approval to subsidiaries of Japanese life and nonlife insurance companies for selling accident insurance products. A source close to the insurance negotiations has revealed that "it is necessary to settle the dispute before insurance companies hold a general meeting of substitute members in early July."

If the MOF decides to allow Japanese subsidiaries to sell accident insurance products, the USTR is prepared to consider the possibility of invoking Section 301 of the 1974 U.S. Trade Act (providing for sanctions against unfair trade practices by trade partners). Although both Japan and the United States wish to avoid direct confrontation, they strongly distrust each other, and it is unpredictable whether they can move toward a compromise.

Japan: Tokyo To Complain to WTO if U.S. Retaliates on Insurance

OW2305132996 Tokyo KYODO in English
1049 GMT 23 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 23 KYODO — The United States has informally told Japan it will start procedures for imposing sanctions on Japanese financial service companies if the two nations cannot settle a bilateral insurance row, international financial sources said Thursday (23 May).

The U.S. intends to invoke section 301 of the 1974 U.S. trade law if bilateral talks fail and Japanese life and nonlife insurers get to enter the so-called "third sector" of the Japanese insurance market through subsidiaries, they said.

Japan's finance ministry is studying how the threatened sanctions would affect Japanese financiers operating in the U.S. It is also preparing to file a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO), according to the sources.

Japanese and U.S. insurance negotiators are expected to resume talks next week in Washington aiming to reach an agreement by their self-imposed June 1 deadline.

At the heart of the dispute is the issue of Japanese insurers' access to the third sector covering sickness, accident and nursing policies which combine life and nonlife insurance benefits. Foreign insurers are strong in these products.

The U.S. does not want Japanese insurance units to get access to the segment, arguing the 1994 Japan-U.S. insurance agreement calls for substantial liberalization of the "primary" life and nonlife sectors before opening up the third sector.

Japan: Ministry To Push U.S. To Open Civil Aviation Talks

OW2605152996 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 26 May 96 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] There is now no hope of resuming Japan-U.S. talks on passenger aviation. To break this deadlock, the Ministry of Transport [MOT] has decided to ask the U.S. Government to agree to the opening of official talks within 60 days, thereby setting a deadline for opening the talks. This measure is based on Article 16 of the Japan-U.S. Aviation Agreement [JUAA], and the MOT plans to inform the U.S. side of this request through diplomatic channels. At the aviation cargo talks that were concluded in April, the gaps between the rights and interests of Japan and the United States were substantially eliminated. Therefore, the MOT intends to put increased pressure on the U.S. side to agree to open talks in the passenger field at an early date so as to aim at expanding the operating rights for Japanese companies.

The MOT has maintained that the operating rights as stipulated in the JUAA disadvantage Japanese companies, and has repeatedly asked the U.S. Government to hold official talks. In mid-April, Transport Minister Yoshiyuki Kamei sent a message to U.S. Transport Secretary Federico Pena. However, the U.S. side has not agreed to the request to start talks.

In the meanwhile, the dispute between the two countries over "beyond rights" operations in Asia via Japan for United Airlines (UA) of the United States has intensified. And this dispute has been turned into "exchanges of sanctions" in connection with the opening of new routes or increasing flights for Japan Airlines [JAL] or UA. The conflict has been eliminated by the temporary agreement reached in April, because the Japanese and U.S. authorities have agreed to start unofficial negotiations in Tokyo on 3 and 4 April.

Regarding the request to start official talks, it is stipulated in the JUAA that "talks should be opened within 60 days after the request is made." If the request is made in late May, the deadline for opening talks will be late July. At the informal talks that will open on 3 June, the MOT plans to submit proposals for procedures and topics, aiming at starting official talks on revising the agreement. Should the U.S. side fail to agree to this request, the MOT intends to take a hardline position of "studying the possibility of imposing sanctions based on the violation of the JUAA," (as stated by a senior official of the Civil Aviation Bureau).

Japan: Tokyo Seeks Resumption of Aviation Talks Within 60 Days

OW2705143296 Tokyo KYODO in English 1415 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO — Japan will request by the end of this month that the United States resume stalled bilateral passenger aviation talks within 60 days, officials of the Transport Ministry said Monday [27 May].

They said the U.S. has yet to reply to a Japanese letter seeking an early resumption of the talks, sent in April by Japanese Transport Minister Yoshiyuki Kamei to U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena.

Under the current Japan-U.S. aviation accord, the two countries are obliged to respond within 60 days when either one of them calls for talks, the officials said.

In the minister's letter, Japan did not specify a concrete deadline for the U.S. response, the officials said.

The two sides have been at odds over implementation of the 1952 bilateral treaty, which Japan sees as outdated and giving unfair advantages to U.S. airlines in TransPacific passenger transport.

While withholding approval to applications by each other's airlines to launch new routes and flights, the two countries have held ineffective negotiations.

The countries have agreed to hold an informal working-level session in early June in Tokyo.

Japan: U.S. To Turn Away From Multilateralism at OECD Talks

OW2705034596 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 24 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[Editorial: "The United States With its Back Still Turned on Multilateralism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What a ministerial council session of the Organization for Economic Cooperation

and Development (OECD) that lacked firmness and enthusiasm! Originally, it would have been the stage of full-fledged policy coordination and consultations among major countries to pave the way for the summit talks among the seven major countries (Lyon Summit) scheduled for June. The session that would have played an important role of the so-called pre-summit concluded 22 May, and we could not but feel that the session ended without dispelling suspicion of being bottled up.

This has resulted in a premonition that the summit talks may reach the limits and lose forces in the process of the policy coordination. Strictly speaking, the United States, which served as vice chairman, should have sent one of its cabinet members. The United States has been rather reluctant in contributing to the OECD budget. Despite the fact that the United States will hold its presidential election this year, the council session has given an impression that the United States takes the position of attaching importance to its own domestic affairs.

The joint statement adopted at the session indicates a sense of crisis about the fact that unemployment in member countries "has reached an intolerably high rate." And the statement also advocates that "efforts be made to observe regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to withstand protectionist pressures in various forms." However, with regard to the trade issue, it has become apparent that the so-called multilateralism is now retrogressing. It is because the United States has further intensified its tilting toward bilateralism, or unilateral position in trade diplomacy.

It is five years now since the Cold War ended, both in name and in reality, with the collapse of the Soviet Union. OECD that started as a club of rich Western countries is now facing a turning point, and it has fallen into a state of fluctuation now. The confused state at the session was further amplified by Russia, when it abruptly submitted an application for admission right before the council session.

OECD is now facing a turning point in its history. However, many other international organs are put in the same situation, though more or less different in the extent. In particular, multilateralism is now faced with a challenge.

WTO is the first full-fledged international organ that has been created following the end to the Cold War. China will probably join in this organization in the future, and multilateralism can be expected to expand further. However, the United States that has promoted WTO has started to turn its back on multilateralism, which is the essential nature of the WTO. Thus, the recent

ministerial session has cast a dark shadow on the future development of multilateralism.

At this juncture, we would like to confirm the importance of the principle of multilateralism and no discrimination.

In submitting its abrupt application for admission, Russia must have lost its sober judgment. And since OECD is a club of rich, industrialized countries, it is not a club to which Russia can adapt itself because Russia has virtually become a "southern" country that is qualified for aid. It can be said that the recent council session wandered out of course on many occasions.

Japan: Editorial: OECD Meeting Critical of U.S. 'Bilateralism'

OW2605234296 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN
in Japanese 23 May 96 Morning Edition p 4

[Editorial: "Avoid Senseless Discussion Over Choosing One from Only Two Options"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Debate on how trade negotiation should be conducted was resuscitated in Paris.

In discussing issues related to trade and investment at the OECD's [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's] ministerial council, Shunpei Tsukahara, Minister of International Trade and Industry, said: "Actions that run counter to the multilateral system — imposition of unilateral sanctions, setting up numerical targets, and extra territorial application of domestic laws for example — should be restrained." This is of course a criticism leveled against the United States.

At the same time, the European Commission, increasingly concerned over the United States' "inclination toward bilateralism," plans to emphasize the importance of a multilateral principle in a communique to be issued at the ministerial council. Such argument by both Japan and Europe will likely make the United States wary and provoke its strong reaction.

We used the word "resuscitation" because the issue was a source of a constant and fundamental conflict during Japan-U.S. economic framework talks, which finally burst into flame when auto negotiations ruptured last year. It was only last month when the government, Congress, and even the private sector in the United States showed unusually strong reaction to comments of a senior official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry that said: "The era in which Japan-U.S. trade friction was solved through bilateral negotiations ended."

Now that the World Trade Organization (WTO) started with the implementation of international trade rules and

the mechanism to solve discords, trade friction should be solved at the multilateral discussion arena while observing these rules. What Japan says is correct in principle.

For Japan, it is more than a simple principle but a hope because it wants to prevent what happened during bilateral negotiations in the past: When negotiations stalled in the last phase, the United States often demanded Japan's compromise by posing "threat" — for example, a sanction to impose a U.S. domestic law Section 301 of the Trade Act (to eliminate unfair trade practices). On the contrary, the United States considers what Japan maintains is a mere excuse to escape from bilateral negotiations to delay the opening of its market.

We must consider why the United States persists on bilateralism even though it is making it look like one big arrogant nation.

It has been long since the economic "borderless" age was said to have begun. In reality, however, no country was free from historical restraints in operating its market. In this context, only the United States could open its market — an exceptionally vast one — to the international community for the last half century. We cannot ignore that.

It is this "market" that provided strength to the United States in trade negotiations. This is a reason why the United States voluntarily plays a role as harbinger of the market opening. If we let argument intensify over choosing "bilateral or multilateral forum" to settle trade disputes, it will only end in senseless feelings and mutual distrust.

Japan: Jimmy Carter Briefs Hashimoto, Ikeda on DPRK Developments

*OW2405132696 Tokyo KYODO in English
1312 GMT 24 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Friday [24 May] his private humanitarian organization will send a fact-finding mission to North Korea in June to investigate the seriousness of the food shortage there.

Carter made the remarks in a meeting with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at the Prime Minister's Office and pledged to inform Tokyo about the mission's findings, officials said.

In a separate meeting with Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda earlier in the day, Carter said the mission also aims to find ways to help North Korea increase its food production.

He said he had already contacted North Korean de facto leader Kim Chong-il about the project, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

Ikeda said it is important to "smoothly" integrate the isolationist nation into the international community and to realize proposed peace talks among the two Koreas, the United States and China for a new peace agreement to replace the armistice that ended the Korean war in 1953.

In response to Carter offering full cooperation for Japan's bid for a permanent UN Security Council seat, Hashimoto said, "We are now posting our candidacy for a nonpermanent seat, but we will live up to our responsibilities should we become a permanent council member."

Hashimoto also thanked Carter for his mediating efforts in North Korea that helped to break deadlocked nuclear talks with the United States, the officials said.

Japan: Prime Minister Hashimoto To Push PRC Membership in WTO

*OW2705053096 Tokyo KYODO in English
0414 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO — Prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Monday he will seek to realize early membership of China in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"I will try to have China become a member of the WTO soon so it will become a part of the international community," Hashimoto said at a breakfast meeting with business leaders.

China had hoped to join the WTO at its inauguration in January 1995 but failed because of disagreement over the terms of entry with the United States and other developed countries.

Japan: Editorial on U.S. Extension of MFN Status to PRC

*OW2505033796 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 24 May 96 Morning Edition p 3*

[Editorial: "Try To Reconstruct a Stable U.S.-PRC Relationship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has disclosed his administration's comprehensive policy toward Asia and has announced that the United States will extend the Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) status for the PRC.

In view of the upcoming U.S. presidential election this coming fall, the President's speech on Asian policy is an

attempt to show the PRC the administration's intention to restore bilateral relations that has been deteriorating since last year, as well as a response to the Republican Party's charging that the administration is inconsistent with its policies.

To isolate or shut out the PRC from the international community would lead to instability in the Asia-Pacific region; it would also run contrary to U.S. interests. Extending the MFN status to the PRC is an appropriate decision if the United States and the PRC hope to seek harmony instead of conflict.

President Clinton reiterated that the United States holds vital, strategic and economic interests in the Asia-Pacific region. As priority tasks in regard to U.S. security strategy in the region, the President listed the following points: 1) Continued military presence; 2) support toward stronger security cooperation among Asian countries; 3) maintenance of leadership in response to serious threats; and 4) support toward the establishment of democracy.

This is a reconfirmation that the United States will continue to intervene in the Asia-Pacific region as a "Pacific state," and we are in favor of it.

President Clinton's speech primarily covered U.S. policy toward the PRC. He clarified that the United States intends to support the development of a "stable and open China" under the principle of "one China" and urged Chinese participation in international issues. At the same time, however, he made it clear that the United States will maintain connections with Taiwan.

U.S.-PRC relations have been wavering ever since the 1989 Tiananmen incident. The bilateral relations were shaken again when Taiwan President Li Teng-hui visited the United States last summer. The situation developed to a point where the United States deployed an aircraft carrier to the region when the PRC conducted military exercises during the Taiwan presidential election last March. All the while, the two countries have remained at odds over intellectual property rights, export of nuclear-related technologies, and human rights, among other issues.

However, the United States and the PRC should be able to reach agreement over individual issues through dialogue. Although the two countries engaged in a display of their military strength during the Taiwan crisis, they still maintained contact through diplomatic channels. The two countries' diplomatic and economic ties are based on a relationship of mutual reliance. Consequently, despite their conflict, they both have the willpower and possess the ways and means to avert the worse scenario.

What we desire of the PRC is that as a "country that will possess the greatest economic power in the world in the next 20 years," it will try to act with responsibility as super power to contribute to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Last week, U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher proposed holding U.S.-PRC summit meetings on a regular basis. President Clinton reportedly is very interested in visiting the PRC. However, public sentiments critical of human rights problems in the PRC are still strong in the United States. Consequently, the U.S. and PRC leaders have yet to pay an official visit to each other's country.

Secretary Christopher also welcomed Taiwan President Li's calling for a "PRC-Taiwan summit" in his inaugural speech. The promotion of dialogue among the United States, PRC, and Taiwan will certainly work in favor of relieving tension in the Taiwan strait.

In their relations, the United States and the PRC may face difficult problems in the future. However, holding summit meetings on a regular basis could promote dialogue and help deepen their cooperative ties. We hope to see the two countries hold a summit meeting soon.

The Clinton administration should proceed to reconstruct a stable relationship with the PRC without being influenced by, among other things, speculative interests connected with the upcoming presidential election.

Japan: Editorial: Example for Tokyo in U.S.-China Trade Talks

OW2705141996 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 22 May 96 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Is Japan To Remain an Observer?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has officially decided to renew Most-Favored Nation (MFN) trade status for China. However, at the same time, the two countries have announced sanctions and retaliatory measures against each other over the intellectual property rights issue. Assert what one should assert, deliver thorough attacks on the other party's weakness, and do what one ought to do. Following such principles, they have sought where they can compromise. Such is the manner of holding the real trade negotiations. The recent circumstances suggest how future economic frictions may develop between them when they become the two big powers.

The economic issue is not the only matter behind the negotiations: Taiwan's attitude toward the One China policy; China's arms export issue; coordination of views of pro-human-rights groups, which are still a dominant

force in the United States; and the question of who will assume the longstanding initiative in rapidly growing Asia. Thus, there are extensive issues ranging from the strategic to the practical. For example, the question of how China, a country with a different nature, should be incorporated with the U.S. global concept, and the question of what kind of considerations need to be given in protecting the interests of American companies doing businesses in China. The negotiations between them are also comprehensive cultural disputes.

Always hanging over their negotiations is an air of fear that no one knows when those interests involving comprehensive sectors will be brought up for discussion. However, essentially, this is the nature of diplomatic and trade talks. We should take the recent U.S. renewal of MFN status for China as the beginning of the China-U.S. negotiations that may last until the end of the 21st century.

Although the two nations have agreed to separate politics from economic issues for the time being, it is merely an accord of convenience. There is the danger that if their interests conflict, the situation could change drastically. It is war between the country that is responsible for the fate of more than 1.4 billion people and the country seeking to maintain its civilization based on freedom and the market economy as long as possible in the history of mankind. How can Japan remain an observer, ignoring its close ties with both of them? It should make a positive contribution.

The current Japan-U.S. trade talks concern the interests of only from one to several companies. For example, they have turned the photo film and insurance issues into generic problems, and have taken them up at the intergovernmental negotiations only to aggravate the situation. There is a big difference in quality between the Japan-U.S. talks and the China-U.S. talks, and this embarrasses us.

The Japan-U.S. talks have a long history, and have made immeasurable contributions to past global economic development. However, they now go into excessive detail and are lost in a maze.

The reason for their having invited such a situation is that the Japan-U.S. negotiations are not led by politicians but by bureaucrats with limited authority. The results of such talks are neither risky nor attractive. Lengthy working-level talks attract only concerned officials. If we leave the situation as it is, our talks will surely depart from the main current of the international community. We should rebuilt talks with the United States by taking part in the U.S.-China negotiations.

The United States has decided to renew MFN status for China because, as is said by President Clinton, "it is impossible for it to enter the future backwards," and because "it must not seek to isolate itself from China." However, this does not mean that the United States has "approved all Chinese maneuvers." It is because "to do so accords with U.S. interests." It is a very pragmatic choice.

Japan sometimes needs to make decision like this. China's rapid economic growth does not always bring good to Japan. As the U.S. claim says, it is true that China does not sufficiently protect intellectual property rights, and its concept of production costs is totally different from ours. Those factors will be disadvantageous to Japan as well.

Trade negotiations should start from the viewpoint of protecting people's livelihood.

Japan: Former Ambassador on Taiwan-China Issue
OW2405232796 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 20 May 96 Morning Edition pp 1-2

["Insights into the World" column article by Hisahiko Okazaki, former Japanese ambassador to Thailand, entitled: "For Balance of Power Capable of Achieving Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

A Drastic Change Resulting from Democratization
Looking back on world history, we find a series of major incidents that had their origins several decades earlier.

World War I had its cause in the rivalry between Russia and Austria in Eastern Europe. Hostilities had repeatedly cropped since the Crimean War of 60 years before.

If China should pose as the biggest problem in the 21st century, the Taiwan problem that surfaced in March 1996 would prove to be the prototype of a problem that would probably be repeated over and over for decades.

Needless to say, the Taiwan problem existed even before March 1996. This time, however, what in the past had been only a theoretical or hypothetical problem suddenly became reality.

One of the reasons was that Taiwan has become completely free and democratic. This has two major implications. The first is that in the past, Taiwan would have been able to surrender itself to China by forming a Kuomintang [KMT]-Communist collaboration if only the president of the KMT had opted to take that course, now, however, Taiwan must make all important decisions by asking its people. Regarding the people's

will — apart from the question of whether Taiwan will make a formal declaration of independence or be content with being virtually independent — the probability that the pro-unification forces will seize the majority [in the Legislative Yuan (Diet)] has proven to be almost zero.

True to the tradition of U.S. idealism, some people may pin their hopes on a possible democratization on mainland China itself. But it will probably take half a century for China to catch up with the living standards in Taiwan. Moreover, democratization may cause a split in China. These things considered, the scenario for democratization cannot be the basis of any realistic forecast.

The second implication, which is perhaps more important, is that the citizens and the Congress of the United States have now begun to recognize Taiwan as a free democratic country.

This immediately leads to another problem. In the past, there were two concurrent hypothetical questions. One was: Could any American object if a free and democratic group of people wanted to become independent out of their own will? And the other was: Is the United States ready to expose the lives of Americans to a danger for Taiwan even if Americans support the freedom of Taiwan? The concurrent existence of these two questions has been the cause of the so-called ambiguity of the U.S. policy toward Taiwan. The recent incident, however, has shown that the room for ambiguity is extremely small. It has become clear that China will have to be determined to attain its objective by eliminating resistance by at least two aircraft-carrier task-force units should a similar incident occur.

Correlations between Taiwan and the United States

Furthermore, there are correlations between the United States' determination to protect Taiwan and Taiwan's determination to defend itself. The United States, which learned a lesson from the Vietnam war, would not protect a country that has no determination to defend itself. On the other hand, the stronger the United States' determination to protect Taiwan, the stronger Taiwan's will to defend itself. This has been revealed in the response of the Taiwan people as shown on television.

Before the U.S. decision to dispatch two task-force units, the people were "scared" by China's military exercises, wondering "what China planned to do." As Taiwan television began to show the Nimitz and Independence every day, however, the people appeared to gain the courage to criticize China openly. It is quite evident that China was wrong, because it tried to influence a free and democratic election with the threat of military strength. The deployment of U.S.

aircraft carriers enabled Taiwan to restore freedom and its people to speak out and say that what is wrong is wrong. Incidentally, this freedom will be lost in Hong Kong eventually, never to return; and its people will cease to defy danger unnecessarily.

At the moment, the United States says it would be difficult to help Taiwan if the next crisis is brought about as a result of provocation by Taiwan — that is, by Taiwan openly declaring independence. It is true that if the current Li Teng-hui administration should immediately issue such a declaration, the United States would be reluctant to protect Taiwan. If, on the other hand, the public opinion expressed through a democratic process chooses independence, the United States would have no means to suppress it. In that case, will the U.S. Congress and public opinion forsake Taiwan? This is still a hypothetical question, but the answer has become clear this time.

Now that the current situation has become clear to this extent in outline, what course will Beijing take in the future? It goes without saying that a peaceful settlement is desired. The Chinese economy has been placed on a growth track, and China will soon obtain Hong Kong, a rich gain. Thus, economic prosperity and the happiness of its people will be ensured for the next half a century if lasting peace and stability, including the settlement of the Taiwan issue, can be maintained.

China Struggling Against Difficulties for the Sake of Vengeance

A solution that China suggested at present means peaceful unification through talks; however, no one can write a realistic scenario for its attainment. Although China advocates a peaceful unification, the policy it is practicing at present is a threat with military and economic strength, and it is aimed only at deterring Taiwan from taking the course of independence. The flexing of military strength, however, has proved counterproductive this time.

If China changes that policy and seeks a peaceful solution, and if we eliminate conditions that Taiwan would never accept, what remains, after all, is a federation system or admission of Taiwan into the United Nations. It will be welcome if Beijing, learning a lesson from the recent failure, reaches such a conclusion. In this case, however, China will need a powerful leadership to carry out such a new policy, even if Beijing leaders have the will to do so.

There is some probability that Jiang Zemin will display powerful leadership abilities, as Mao Zedong or Deng Xiaoping did. Or a leader like Nikita Khrushchev or Deng Xiaoping may make a debut after Jiang

Zemin fulfills a role like the one performed by Georgy Malenkov after Joseph Stalin or by Hua Guofeng after Mao. We should think, however, that the probability that China will be without a powerful leader is equally high. In the latter case, Beijing will only continue following its present policy.

Then, what will the future of the Far East be? In a word, China's policy in the latter case will be perseverance for revenge. Perseverance for revenge was the catch phrase when Japan renounced under the Triple Intervention in 1895 the Liaotung Peninsula, which it obtained from China under the Ching dynasty. During the 10 years that followed, Japan built a great navy that could defend this country against Russia, overwhelmed Russia and recovered the Liaotung Peninsula in 1905.

This time, faced with the U.S. task forces, China retreated, incapable of doing anything at all. Its goal of expansion of military strength for the time being would be to build up power that can overwhelm two task force units. This is not an impossible goal. For a simple comparison, consider only the air force strengths. If China, which is now purchasing 72 Su-27s from Russia, bases 200-300 aircraft of this type on the front of Fujian province, it will be able to fight for the command of the air in the Taiwan Strait against the two U.S. task force units and the Taiwan air force. Moreover, this will enable China to impose sufficient intimidation on the popular sentiment in Taiwan. With its present economic strength, China will be able to attain this level in about 10 years if only it intends to do so.

At about this point, the importance of the Japan-U.S. alliance becomes clear. If the United States intends to expand its task forces further, Yokosuka and Sasebo can play an important role. There are 54 F-15 fighters of the U.S. Air Force stationed in Okinawa and 140 in the rest of Japan.

In other words, if Japan and the U.S. are firmly united in the Japan-U.S. alliance, it will take China 20 years, not 10, to build up military strength capable of withstanding the joint strength of Japan and the United States in the Far East. It took the Soviet Union nearly 20 years to build up the military strength to withstand the United States and recoup its national self-esteem after suffering humiliation in the Cuban missile crisis.

The China that will take this course will be a different country from today's China. China may threaten the freedom of maritime traffic in the South China Sea merely by stationing 200 Su-27s in Hong Kong and on Hainan Island. It will be difficult for the United States to always maintain aircraft carriers in the South China Sea. The present air forces of Malaysia, Thailand,

and Vietnam do not appear strong enough to counter China's.

Furthermore, if the number of Su-27s in northeastern China nears 300, it will become difficult for Russia to defend the Siberian railway along the northern border.

Unreliable Economic Dependence

Thus, there are fears that Asia will enter the age of a major arms race in about 10 years. This will be unwelcome to everyone, but seems unavoidable if China continues following the present policy.

Meanwhile, Asia will continue economic growth and remain prosperous, just like the 19th-century Europe. During the 1848-1913 period, iron production in Germany increased by 80 times, and as a result, Germany became stronger than Britain, France, and Russia combined. However, since all countries made profits and prospered by trading with Germany, a policy of restricting economic exchanges with that country cannot be practiced. At the same time, Sir Norman Angell's theory that there could be no wars if economic interdependence deepened, a popular theory in those days, was refuted by developments in history. It is important to accept prosperity and expansion of military strength as given postulates and create an environment that would prevent them from leading to wars. For this end, a balance of power — under which the only solution to any problem is a peaceful one — should be created in Asia.

And the ultimate solution probably would be expecting a democratic reform or revolution in China, as envisaged in American idealism. In this sense, the eventual purpose is the same as that of the containment policy. The expected outcome of the containment policy admirably came true when the Soviet Union collapsed. But the method of its implementation will totally differ from that during the Cold War period of East-West confrontation.

Relations between China on one side and the United States, Japan, Southeast Asian countries, India, and Russia on the other are ordinary friendly relations between nations, and confrontation does not exist. The only thing necessary is to structure relations of power under which there can be no solution other than a peaceful one. Even if it takes the form of an arms race as a necessary evil, it would be good if peace is maintained. If peace is maintained, friendly relations will last and prosperity will continue, and there may occur some changes in the situation, including the domestic situation in China.

The Japan-U.S. alliance is the core of the balance of power upon which all Asia-Pacific countries depend.

How closely Japan can cooperate with it and how much Japan can contribute to it directly affects the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan: Ozawa-Takeshita Rendezvous in Beijing Viewed

OW2405233496 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO
in Japanese 18 May 96 pp 98-100

[Article by political commentator Toichi Suzuki: "Was Beijing Meeting of Takeshita and Ozawa Intended to Prevent New Frontier Party From Falling Apart? Hosokawa Attempts Reorganization Through Debate on 'Collective Self-Defense Right'"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Proposal Was Made by Ozawa

The extended holiday season with fields and mountains covered by fresh green leaves came to an end. It was this season when Diet members took trips abroad and reporters on the political desk were relieved from tension. Taking advantage of that political vacuum, a big-scale intrigue was worked out in the past to "deprive Takeo Miki of premiership" [for his zealous inquiry into the Lockheed scandal in 1976]. In a languid political atmosphere, this year saw no such move except in the evening of 4 May when a meeting between Noboru Takeshita and Ichiro Ozawa took place in Beijing, China.

Among the lodgings scattered in the big garden of Diaoyutai State Guest House, Takeshita and Ozawa were allotted neighboring quarters, which Takeshita described, "our two beds were 80 meters apart." As scheduled, Ozawa visited Takeshita's quarters, carrying a bottle of Japanese sake with him. "Now that we are together, let us have a drink and talk," Ozawa said.

Mikio Aoki, a House of Councillors member, was present on the side of Takeshita, and Katsuya Okada, a House of Representatives member, on the side of Ozawa. It was interesting that Ozawa attempted to allow the accompanying press corps take picture of them before the meeting. But Takeshita refused it by saying, "Because it is a private meeting."

According to the Diet members on hand at the meeting, the pair talked for more than an hour but did not touch on political matters at all. Throughout they talked about miscellaneous subjects such as memories of Shin Kanemaru, China, golf, and so forth.

However, it was political news about which a senior member of Kochikai faction commented as "a little concerning, irrespective of the contents." This was because the meeting took place between Takeshita, who

has one of the most powerful and influential positions over not only the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] but also the entire political world, and Ozawa, president of the most powerful opposition party.

There were two factors that led to the meeting. One was when Takeshita and Ozawa happened to meet at the deathbed of Shin Kanemaru, former LDP Vice President, who died in late March. Since Kanemaru's arrest on charges of major tax evasion in 1993, Ozawa continued to stay away from Kanemaru until his death. The reasons were assumed to be "first his guilt conscience that he had not been able to protect Kanemaru to the last and second to stay away from Kanemaru's tarnished image." As a matter of course, Ozawa stayed away from Takeshita and did not show up at the funeral in Shimane Prefecture when Takeshita's stepmother (mother of Wataru Takeshita, Noboru's younger brother) died. Mrs. Wataru Takeshita and Mrs. Ozawa are sisters. Takeshita was reported to have said in a great rage, "Is he not one of the closest relatives, despite of our political differences?"

At the deathbed of Kanemaru, however, Takeshita controlled his personal impulse and was kind to Ozawa. "To Ozawa who was highly embarrassed to be there because of a guilty conscience, Takeshita offered to become a talking companion and Ozawa seemed to be relieved," according to an observer.

At that time, Ozawa was said to have told Takeshita, "Now that Kakuei Tanaka had gone and now Kanemaru is dead, you are the only man who remains, Mr. Takeshita. Please take good care of yourself."

Later, Sadao Hirano, one of Ozawa's closest associates, made contacts with Takeshita and this led to the passage of the budget bill through the Diet. And Hirano boasted to those close to him that "I had set up the Beijing meeting."

The remarks suggested well that the meeting had been arranged by Ozawa's intention. While such arrangements were being made, however, Hirano was quoted to have said, "Takeshita is attempting to improve his political position by utilizing Ozawa."

Having heard Hirano's remarks, Takeshita was so upset that once he was said to have tentatively canceled his scheduled talks in Beijing. Meanwhile, Kozo Watanabe, chairman of the NFP's General Council, pointed out, "Hirano is Takeshita's grass."

Grass means a man who is engaged in intelligence work in the hostile territory. It is therefore interesting that Hirano is dubbed as Takeshita's ninjutsu practitioner.

"No Reason To Turn Down the Offer"

What was the reason behind Ozawa's eagerness to have a meeting with Takeshita? Takao Fujii, director-general of the LDP's Treasury Bureau, had this comment on the matter: "The NFP as a party is so disorganized that it does not have any future prospects. As the president, Ozawa desperately needed to demonstrate his centripetal force and Takeshita helped him out in that respect." A seasoned reporter on the beat of the NFP said, "Ozawa also revealed that he wants to meet Yasuhiro Nakasone but the latter declined to do so because he sees no merit in it." Thus, Ozawa is seen to be attempting to find in the extra-party world a way out of the party's blockaded situation.

Accompanying Ozawa were six Diet members and about 20 reporters, including TV crews and weekly magazines. A 200-seat airliner was chartered for the trip to Beijing at a cost of 30 million yen. Ignoring an inter-party repulsion, "the president who likes to take an exclusive plane" left for Beijing anyway.

As a soothing measure, it was said that the party took care of travel expenses during the extend holiday season for former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu who made a trip to South Africa and another former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata who went to Hong Kong. Former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa reminisced, "I had an offer from Deputy Secretary-General Kenji Yamaoka that the party would take care of the expenses if I was to take a trip and I replied that I had no such plan." This episode vividly illustrated the pride of a former nobleman and shrewdness of a politician.

Despite the fact that Yasuhiro Nakasone had refused the meeting with Ozawa, Takeshita did accept the offer because he saw the merit. Takeshita revealed his thought to one of the closest reporters, "I had no reason to reject the offer that he wanted to see me."

This is an attitude that does not chase those who leave and does not reject those who approach. A seasoned reporter, however, has this interpretation: "On the part of Takeshita, there were merits both in public and private." He added, "First, in the private field, Ozawa and Wataru Takeshita have nephews and they wanted to solve the unnatural situation for relatives not to have contacts."

Then how about the public field? The reporter added, "Takeshita now wants to display his cards that now Ozawa is in his grip, in addition to Ryutaro Hashimoto, Seiroku Kajiyama, Tsutomu Hata and Morihiro Hosokawa. In that sense, Hirano's remarks were right to the point. That's why Takeshita was enraged."

Senior leaders of the Kochikai faction agreed on that point and said, "Takeshita was seriously thinking how to

utilize Ozawa. In the tenacious lust for power, Takeshita exceeds that of Takeo Miki. It is a calculated bet for him to continue to hold on the power."

Ozawa who split with Takeshita in the past by calling all sorts of bad names and kicking sand at him is now almost becoming a "chessman" of Takeshita. To the eyes of Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama, Ozawa also looks like a "chessman." In Nagatacho circles, an episode is being circulated to the effect that "to the reporter who wrote that Kajiyama views Ozawa by 'ai-zo—half in love and half in hatred,' Kajiyama said 'a different letter stands for ai, not love but pity.' With pity and hatred, it is apparent that Kajiyama holds composure and superiority over Ozawa. A seasoned reporter analyzed, 'Is not it that Ozawa is desperately seeking a position in Kajiyama's list of choices?'"

Before the Beijing rendezvous, Hiromu Nonaka, LDP's Acting Secretary-General, called on Chief Cabinet Secretary Kajiyama and said, "It is unpardonable for Takeshita to meet Ozawa, in total disregard of having produced so many sacrifices including former Construction Minister Kishiro Nakamura [who was arrested on graft charges in 1994] and so forth."

Nonaka, a radical opponent of Ozawa, was reported to have been furious with anger. Kajiyama asked, "Do you hate Ozawa that much?" Nonaka was quoted to have replied in Kyoto dialect "Mine is zo-zo [hatred on top of hatred], not love and hatred."

Nonaka, who has frequently visited Takeshita, showed this kind of repulsion and it illustrated well the fact that the Takeshita-Ozawa meeting is a "double-edged sword" for either one.

"Ozawa is Becoming a Rightist"

It is a double-edged sword for Ozawa, because the Diet members of former Shinseito [Renewal Party] who had deserted the LDP could feel a relief, "Now that Ozawa got reconciled with Takeshita, the formation of an alliance of conservative and conservative can be talked over at any time," while the Diet members who belonged to the former Japan New Party, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party felt increased anxiety; "What is this and what has become of it?" Among them all, Hosokawa pointed out as follows as to the matter: "Ozawa is turning a rightist in rapid succession. Being elected the party president does not allow him do as he likes. Discussions have to be made at party organs to decide on such subjects as plan to form the alliance of conservative and conservative, the constitutional issues and the collective self-defense right."

As Hosokawa pointed out, Ozawa has changed his views on the collective self-defense right. When he

was in charge of the Ozawa Research Commission and staged election campaigns to win the post of the NFP president in later last year, he was quoted to have said, "The collective self-defense right is questionable with reference to the Constitution. In whatever way, it is impossible. The only solution is to make an amendment to the Constitution. Issues have to be dealt with by collective self-defense as provided in the United Nations Charter and the collective self-defense right should not be invoked."

In late February, however, NFP's lower house member Shozo Azuma of the former Komeito who presided over the NFP's project team on the basic security law made public a chairman's viewpoint to the effect: "The exercise of the collective self-defense right is in accordance with the Constitution. Since the UN Charter quotes it and the United Nations recognizes it, it can be interpreted that such right is recognized by the Constitution."

On 7 April, Ozawa who appeared on an Asahi television program said, "It is said constitutional on the ground of the UN Charter and I support this way of thinking."

The MC confirmed, "You say it is constitutional?" and Ozawa replied, "It is constitutional." This illustrated what Hosokawa had said, "He is becoming a rightist very rapidly."

Now Hosokawa is the most powerful opponent of Ozawa in the party. On 11 March, in a speech delivered at the Foreign Council in Washington, he made his view public this way, "I stand for defending the Constitution." He added, "an amendment should not be made into the Constitution with respect to the issue of collective self-defense right. I do not mean that the Constitution is a code of laws that will be in effect forever but it is not wise to tamper with it. An amendment to the interpretation of the Constitution is also not good. Without resorting to the concept of the collective self-defense right, there are many things that can be done by way of rear support."

In that speech Hosokawa caused a sensation by having made the following remarks: "Pull out U.S. Marines from Okinawa and relocate them in Guam and Hawaii. By adopting an advance front deployment system, it is better to leave such armament as tanks and artillery in Okinawa and come back from Hawaii to pick them up in emergencies."

In response to this remarks of Hosokawa, Hajime Ishii made the following remarks in a program "Tomorrow's Cabinet" on 7 May as a minister in charge of security policy: "Since U.S. President Clinton's visit to Japan, the amount which will be written in the hidden part be-

hind the proposed return of the Futenma Air Station, that is in blank check, is not seriously discussed by the NFP, not either the realistic amendment to the Constitution that will lead to the exercise of the collective self-defense right in the event of an emergency in the Far East as a matter of great national interest. On the contrary, NFP President Ozawa gives out a hawkish impression to the people by defining the collective self-defense right as constitutional. Is the NFP a party leaning more to the right than the LDP? With this, is the NFP able to stage election campaigns? Is it not the party in the interest of liberals, protection of the Constitution and for disarmament? We have to make a thorough discussion on what kind of political party or parties the nation hopes to have."

Within the former Komeito group, criticism has risen against Diet member Azuma. In this respect, the "Soka Gakkai against war and for peace" is falling out of Ozawa. Ishii said, "I would like to have our steps in line by having a talk with Yuichi Ichikawa soon. I would like to confirm that Ichikawa is theoretically against Ozawa in this respect. The alliance with Komei cannot be sacrificed. An election with young Diet members at stake cannot be won by such a meek attitude of avoiding complications."

Both Hosokawa and Ishii are attempting to tackle political realignment with constitutionality as the central issue. But a seasoned reporter sharply pointed out, "You can say anything with regard to policies, but such remarks do not become a source of power once election campaigns start under the single-seat constituency election system."

Japan: Official Anticipates Response to PRC Nuclear Tests

OW2505103796 Tokyo KYODO in English
1006 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 25 KYODO — Japan is unlikely to suspend yen credits to China even if Beijing goes ahead with nuclear testing as expected, a top Foreign Ministry official indicated Saturday [25 May].

"The yen credit is the main pillar of Japan's policy toward China and is designed to support China's policy of openness and reform," the official said, indicating Chinese nuclear testing will not affect Japan's aid to the country.

A senior U.S. defense official said Tuesday China is preparing a new underground nuclear test as the country is under pressure to join an international test ban treaty.

Japan will continue a freeze on grant-in-aid imposed after China's nuclear tests last year and lodge a strong protest through the Chinese ambassador in Japan, said the official, who declined to be identified.

Japan has agreed to Beijing's request for yen credits over the five-year period from fiscal 1996, which began April 1, and pledged a total of 580 billion yen for the initial three-year period. The amount to be provided in credits in the final two years has yet to be determined.

The government of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is concerned that China's nuclear testing may rekindle pressure from within the ruling coalition to review Japan's aid to the country, political sources said.

The most effective way to force China to call off nuclear tests is to have the country join the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty as early as possible, the Foreign Ministry official said.

Japan: Article: U.S. Arms Industry Exaggerating 'PRC Threat'

OW2805024496 Tokyo SAPIO in Japanese
22 May 96 pp 16-19

[Article by journalist Shingo Hayashi: "'Chinese Threat' Is 'Last Resort' For U.S. Arms Industry"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The primary factor in the attempt to redefine and strengthen the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty at the summit conference in April was the "Chinese and North Korean threat." To be specific, the threat was not one posed by the great numerical strength of troops with their antiquated equipment. Rather, it was the threat posed by a missile first strike. To deal with such circumstances, TMD (theater missile defense) has been conceived, which the United States, along with Japan and other countries, is trying to introduce. The "Patriot," which became well known during the Gulf War, is also part of it. But the whole picture has still not been made public. Journalist Shingo Hayashi reports here, based on secret materials, on the entire picture of TMD, which holds the key to the security of the Far East.*

The cold war is over, and the world trend is moving toward the disarmament. But East Asia is an exception. East Asian countries, out of limited national finances, have increased their defense budgets every year and have become infatuated with introducing new weapons.

The reason is simple: in East Asia, China and Taiwan and the Korean Peninsula are still divided, and a crisis structure still exists.

Especially since the beginning of this year, China has hardened its attitude on the Taiwan independence issue and on the Taiwan presidential election in which the

independence issue was a focal point. Finally, the situation reached the point where China, claiming it was conducting an exercise, fired missiles that landed in waters near Taiwan.

In response, the United States immediately dispatched a naval task force led by the aircraft carriers "Nimitz" and "Independence." Today, the tension has still not disappeared.

When we consider this issue, we must first determine how real the "Chinese threat" actually is.

The numerical strength of the Chinese People's Liberation Forces (3.2 million) is indeed the greatest in the world (although reduction is now going on), but their equipment is antiquated, and their naval operational capacity and air force strength are especially poor. They are hurrying to bring in new weaponry from Russia, such as the Sukhoi 27 fighter aircraft and the Kilo class submarine, but they cannot obtain a decent number of them because they do not have enough hard currency. Moreover, because their maintenance and control capabilities, such as for mechanical adjustments, are low, it is believed that they would not pose very much of a threat in an actual war. The fact that they have to depend on other countries for their supply of new weapons is itself proof that their military technology level is still very low. In other words, except for its missiles, China is not all that much of a threat.

The situation is similar in the Korean Peninsula. It is impossible, except in one of the "fictitious war stories" which have recently been popular, for North Korea to overwhelm the South Korean and U.S. forces stationed in South Korea in conventional ground, sea, and air battles and then occupy the entire peninsula. North Korea, however, does have in place tactical missiles with a range of over 1000 kilometers. This is a real threat, not only for South Korea, but also for Japan.

In other words, in an all-out war, we will not lose; but still there is a chance they could hit us with a first strike. That is the actual situation of the "threat."

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States has admitted this fact. Some of our readers may remember the following passage in the interview with Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the 10 April issue of SAPIO.

"It is almost impossible for China, with its current military capability, to invade the main island of Taiwan and occupy it by force. But it is easy to pound it thoroughly with theater missiles from Mainland China. Moreover, the missiles will reach targets in Taiwanese territory within 10 minutes of launching, so it is very difficult to take counter action and shoot them down."

TMD Is "Hope" for U.S. Arms Industry's Survival

Not only does the United States directly face a missile threat today in East Asia, but it has also encountered it in the past, during the Gulf war. Out of such a background, TMD has rapidly emerged as a new armament concept.

To begin with, since the cold war began, a pattern was repeated in which the former Soviet Union took the lead in the tactical missile development race and the United States struggled to come up with counter measures. The Soviet Union Navy carried ballistic missiles on board submarines five years before the U.S. Navy did, and the Soviet Union also first deployed an ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) that could be moved freely on a trailer.

In the third Middle East War, which broke out in 1967, high-speed Soviet-made vessels supplied to the Egyptian Navy, with a displacement of a mere 80 tons, sank the Israeli Navy's 2000-ton destroyer "Eirhat" with anti-ship missiles (also Soviet-made) and left U.S. naval officials aghast.

How to shoot down the missiles that come flying in has long been a proposition for the U.S. forces to solve.

During the Reagan Administration, the United States came up with the missile defense concept called the SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative), also known as "Star Wars." It was intended to destroy Soviet-launched ICBMs in space, using laser weapons and so on. This was a little too unconventional; and, although they spent over \$3 billion just on research, it ended on the drawing boards. It was like throwing the money into a ditch.

But they achieved some measure of success in development of weaponry, such as the "Patriot" missile, intended to shoot down relatively short-range enemy missiles. Consequently, the TMD concept, which is to develop further this "successful aspect" has gained attention.

Another point is that the missiles that countries currently opposed to the United States possess or are developing, all have technology derived from the former Soviet Union. Iraq's "Al Hussein," North Korea's "Nodong" and "Tepodong," and China's "M9" are all improved models of the former Soviet Union's Skud tactical missile. The cold war is over, but in the area of missiles and missile countermeasures, the cold war structure continues to live. The former Soviet Union's threat is gone, but the Soviet-made missile threat is not gone. So even while disarmament is loudly advocated, the cold war structure is the basis for the claim that the TMD alone is holy territory. For the U.S. arms industry, under pressure of a drastic military spending cut, TMD is the last resort for its survival.

Very recently, through a person concerned with military affairs, I had an opportunity to look at a report concerning the TMD compiled by an U.S. research organization, DFI International, which was not made available to the general public.

This report, totaling 85 pages, contains only listings of fragmentary data; but as I was studying them carefully, the following facts emerged:

First, the TMD is a synthesized project that includes the BMD (ballistic missile defense) plan (see the interview with Chairman Shalikashvili in 10 April issue), the navy's missile defense plan, various plans to improve surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, and the handling of victims and civilian defense in case incoming missiles are not shot down.

Second, as for the specific methods of shooting down incoming missiles, they are set up in two tiers: in an upper tier, to shoot them down at long range or very high altitude, and in a lower tier, to shoot them down at closer range.

Third, for this project an enormous budget is required: for (fiscal year) 1996 alone, it will total \$5.9142 billion, headed by \$3.442 billion for the BMD. It will cost in the range of several tens of billions of dollars in the future.

Fourth, a confrontation exists between the government side, which, because of the huge economic burden, hopes to keep spending down by simplifying the plan through such measures as consolidating the types of missiles, and the military, which wants to obtain the most varied weapons possible, responding to each branch's specific requirements. Also, for the same reason, a group that wants to go ahead and a group that advocates caution also exist within the Congress.

To supplement the fourth point a little: according to this document, the current Clinton administration seems to be cautious in promoting TMD because the CIA made a report quite recently saying that "with the exception of the big powers that already have nuclear weapons, during the next 15 years no countries will emerge with the capability to make the U.S. mainland and Canada a target for a direct missile attack." On the other hand, many in the opposition Republican Party criticize the CIA report as "too optimistic."

In view of all that, I think we can say that for the promoters of the TMD — especially for the U.S. arms industry, which has a "great stake" in the TMD, the last sacred territory in a strong arms reduction movement — the surfacing of the "Chinese threat" came at a most opportune time, on a great tailwind.

"Chinese Threat" Created by U.S.

Although it is not a too widely known fact, the countries from which China is currently receiving its supply of the latest military technology are Russia and Israel. However, this is already common knowledge among people concerned with military affairs. It is not just common knowledge, but fact.

As an example, the Chengchi 6 and Chengchi 7, the Chinese Air Force's main fighter airplanes, were produced by licenses based on the MiG 19 and MiG 21 respectively. Needless to say, these aircraft were made with Soviet technology.

It has been confirmed, however, that the Chengchi 9, which flew for the first time in 1991 and is regarded as the main fighter airplane for the next generation, has a delta wing and is produced with a completely different design philosophy. The fact is that Israel provided China with the Ravi fighter plane's technology, which it had developed independently based on the French Mirage fighter plane.

It has also been confirmed recently that Israeli engineers were present at the test site of China's satellite launch. Launch technology is, needless to say, missile technology.

Israel is the United States' only ally in the Middle East. Also, the strong influence of the Jewish lobby in the U.S. Congress and in the mass media is well known. For that reason, Israel has always received a supply of the latest military technology from the United States. Earlier I mentioned that Israel sustained great damage from Soviet-made anti-ship missiles during the third Middle East War. But in the following Fourth Middle East War (1973), although over 50 of the same missiles were fired, none hit its target. That was because the United States quickly supplied Israel with the technology to intercept the guiding electronic signals of the enemy missiles.

As for fighter airplanes, Israel depends on the United States today, as in the past, for its supply of jet engines. In Israel, where the total population is only about 400,000 and not even an automobile industry exists, no top-level engine technology can be developed.

As Chinese economic growth became notable in the mid-1980s, Israel rapidly approached China, as if in a prelude to the end of the Cold War, and began to sell its technology and buy hard currency. At the time of the Gulf war, Israel received a supply of Patriot anti-missile missiles to counter Iraqi missile attacks. It is said that it has already sold samples to China.

Such a structure, one where U.S. military technology flows into China via Israel, really exists. In other words,

the United States itself condones this structure and lets the "Chinese threat" become greater.

Is TMD a Rational Strategy?

Here, please recall the series of events leading from the Iranian Revolution to the Gulf war.

In 1979, when the Islamic fundamentalist revolution, led by the late Imam Khomeini, succeeded in Iran, the Persian Gulf countries, fearful of the revolution's ripple effect, attempted a large-scale anti-revolution war, putting the western neighbor Iraq at the front. That was the beginning of the "Iran-Iraq War," which lasted 8 years.

In the course of this war, what did the advanced countries, including the United States, do? Did they not continuously ship weapons for huge sums to Saddam Hussein of Iraq and help the Iraqi forces become the strongest in the Middle East?

If the countries led by the United States had together taken measures to prohibit weapons export and military technology transfer to Iraq at an earlier stage, the "Iran-Iraq War" would have ended sooner, and the subsequent invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war would not have occurred. But they did not do so. As a result, Japan had to pay for the others' blunder. We should not forget that, during the Gulf War, as a result of U.S. pressure, we were forced to take over a share of the war cost in the amount of \$13 billion, yet received not a word of appreciation.

Again, I quote from the Shalikashvili interview in the 10 April issue.

It ends as follows:

"I want the Japanese to hold on to their resolution never to yield to such illegal Chinese acts. I earnestly wish this from the Japanese people, especially as our ally."

If the concrete content of the "earnest wish" he states here points to the sharing the enormous budget for TMD, as a Japanese, I want politely to refuse. On one hand, the United States does not attempt to prevent the proliferation of missile technology; on the other hand, it continues to pour huge amount of money into the development of anti-missile measures, claiming that the proliferation of technology poses "a threat, a threat." This is totally unproductive process of "lighting a fire and putting it out."

Rather than thinking about how to shoot down missiles that come flying in, it is much more constructive and rational to think about ways to prevent them from flying in the first place. Not only in regard to weapons exports, but also in technology transfer for

production, maintenance, and operation of weapons, the advanced countries should cooperatively enforce strong regulations. Further, if they were to control economic assistance to countries that continue to spend large sums on military equipment, most of the "threats" that exist today would disappear.

What is needed from Japan is not a "firm resolution" to keep following the United States, but an effort toward comprehensive disarmament and detente in East Asia.

Japan: Tokyo To Make Final Decision on U.S. Missile Project

OW2805070396 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 22 May 96 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] On 21 May, the government decided to make a final decision as early as the summer of 1997 on whether Japan will participate in the ballistic missile defense (BMD) project, which is being developed by the United States. Defense Agency Director General Hideo Usui revealed this at a session of the House of Councillors' Committee on the Cabinet on the same day. He said: "I have instructed (officials in charge) to get the research done at the earliest opportune time, and to make a clear decision (on whether to join the project)." He made the remarks in reply to questions by Shigeto Nagano (from the Heisei Kai floor group).

The government has requested approximately 440 million yen in the fiscal 1996 budget. It intends to ask private companies to conduct feasibility studies through computer-aided simulation tests as well as a cost-benefit analysis by the summer of 1997. Usui's remarks indicate that the government intends to make a decision on participation in the BMD project as soon as the results of those studies are compiled.

Japan: U.S. To Supply Satellite Launch Early Warning Information

OW2405063596 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 23 May 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] As of 22 May, the Defense Agency [DA] and the U.S. Department of Defense virtually reached an accord that the United States will provide Japan with information on early warning against ballistic missile launching intercepted by the U.S. stationary satellites. Based on this accord, DA has decided to start an in-house study of such problems as how the intercepting system can be put into use. Originally, there were no particular arrangements on providing early warning information to Japan, and through Japan's request, the accord has been reached recently between the two countries. With this substantial

agreement, the Japan-U.S. defense cooperation in the field of information will thus be further strengthened.

According to DA, the early warning information system of the U.S. forces functions as follows: A stationary satellite detects infrared radiation at the launching of a ballistic missile; then, such data as the trajectory will be analyzed by computers; and concerned data will be transmitted to intercepting missile units deployed at various units. During the Gulf war, the U.S. forces used this system for intercepting Iraq's Scud missiles with the new-modeled Patriot PAC II missiles.

As far as Japan is concerned, only radar sites of the Air Self-Defense Force [ASDF] are capable of detection, and it is almost impossible to detect missile launching in a distance place or an orbit outside the stratosphere. As for the interception system, the ASDF has deployed Patriot missiles at six locations in the country. However, these missiles are of the old type that will be used mainly for downing aircraft. In the future, the new-type missiles will be gradually introduced to replace the old ones.

In this connection, DA began asking the United States to provide information on early warning since around 1993. And a senior DA official states: "Judging from the standpoint of strengthening defense cooperation with Japan, the United States has decided on providing the information."

As a result of receiving the early warning information, Japan will be able to get hold of the situation, including experiments, immediately, and the DA source maintains that it will also be of advantage to diplomacy. Reportedly, the information concerning China's launching of missiles in the Taiwan strait were provided to Japan two or three days later. Moreover, DA intends to further promote the in-house study of the problem as to how such early warning information can be relayed to various units such as the Patriot units.

Japan: Journalist Forecasts ASDF in Year 2010

OW2405014396 Tokyo GUNJI KENKYU in Japanese
Jun 96 pp 84-101

[Article by aviation journalist Isao Miyamoto in special feature "Ultra Weapons Challenge Barrier of 21st Century." Originally titled "Air Self-Defense Force Military Power in Year 2010; Introduction of F-2 and AWACS a Big Job"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Air Self-Defense Force [ASDF] is heading for a cut of roughly 10 percent in operations aircraft, but its actual combat power will increase through modernization with introduction of the

F-2, AWACS, and F-15 as well as mid-air tankers, the C-X, and such.

ASDF Takes Delivery of First Test Aircraft XF-2A

From 14:30 on the afternoon of 22 March 1996, there took place at the Komaki-Minami factory of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries [MHI] a ceremony handing over the first test aircraft in the next-generation support fighter F-2 series. Defense Agency officials thus formally took delivery of the XF-2A 63-000 No. 1 aircraft. Since the agreement in October 1987 between the governments of Japan and the United States for the joint development of the next-generation support fighter aircraft FS-X, nearly a decade had passed. Now, despite many twists and turns along the way, the Defense Agency now had in hand the first test model of the new aircraft. On 26 March, just a few days after it had received the first XF-2 test craft, the Defense Agency had the plane flown to the ASDF's Gifu Air Base, where its Air Development and Test Wing is headquartered. The man responsible for this milestone flight was Air Development and Test Wing Major Yoshiaki Minowa. Major Minowa will be in charge of the test flights for the FS-X, commanding a group of four test pilots, all of whom were trained in the United States by the U.S. Air Force to fly specially modified F-16 fighters. The first test model XF-2 at Gifu Air Base will first be put through a variety of maturation tests and various other kinds of ground tests. Actual flight tests will then begin around the end of April. Below is a summary of the official flight tests involving the XF-2 beginning in FY96, based on information that has come to light this far. Official government flight testing is divided into two categories: technical testing and practical testing. Actually, from the standpoint of efficiency, these two kinds of tests overlap and are carried out simultaneously, so they should be considered as two facets of the same process. At the same time, although it may be a bit hard to grasp the distinction at first, the tests carried out by the side responsible for development, namely the Defense Agency's Technical Research and Development Institute [TRDI], are referred to as "technical testing," while those conducted by the user side, the ASDF, are referred to as "practical testing." Let me spell things out a bit further. Technical testing is conducted with the chief objective of acquiring technical data to verify the appropriateness of the aircraft and equipment designs and such. Practical testing considers the XF-2 as a total system, and thus evaluates things from the standpoint of utility. These two different kinds of tests are conducted more or less simultaneously, but in the normal process flow, technical test factors are usually given priority to a certain extent. Technical and practical testing is scheduled to take place for roughly three years, from the end of FY95 through the end of

FY98. The four test aircraft being delivered to the Defense Agency are scheduled for roughly 1,000 sortie flights. Probably this will involve total flight hours approaching 2,000 hours. Responsible for the testing will be, respectively TRDI at its Gifu test facility, and the Air Development and Test Wing (Gifu), which is under the ASDF's Air Development and Test Command. Gifu Air Base will be the main center for these flight tests, but mobility tests will also take place involving three other air bases, namely Chitose Air Base in Hokkaido, Misawa Air Base in Aomori Prefecture and Matsushima Air Base in Miyagi Prefecture. Among various tests to be conducted at the three bases, cold resistance testing will take place at Chitose Air Base, firing and bombing testing at Misawa Air Base and cross-wind testing at Matsushima Air Base. The tests to be based at Gifu Air Base will take place over the Japan Sea, primarily in the "G" Air Zone, while on the Pacific side they will occur in the "K" Air Zone over the open Pacific, and in the "J" air zone in the air space over Gifu Prefecture.

Actual Flight Testing From Autumn 1996

According to present plans, all four test aircraft will be delivered to the Defense Agency by September 1996. Actual flight testing is scheduled to begin from around autumn, once all aircraft are in ASDF hands. During FY97, we can expect to see the technical and practical testing peak.

The test pilots directly responsible for the flight tests of the XF-2 have all recently completed the "test flight operator course" within the Air Development and Test Wing. The flight testing system for the XF-2 is expected to involve about 12 pilots altogether, with Major Minowa and the four other pilots who have gone through the U.S. Air Force's F-16 pilot-training course acting as the key personnel.

As a matter of fact, this process will involve more than simply testing the F-2. It will also include testing other newly developed aircraft in a "step-by-step" approach. The general principle here is to first confirm the airworthiness of the new aircraft within a specified flight zone, then ever so carefully to expand that zone to verify the flight characteristics of the aircraft in a slow-and-steady fashion. According to this process flow, the flight testing of the XF-2 will be divided into four phases.

Moreover, when it comes to the process pursued, the things to be tested must be prioritized, with top priority test categories, such as for flight functions and aircraft special characteristics, being handled first. In addition, each of the four test aircraft will be assigned specific test tasks, which means that each of them will have different monitoring systems installed appropriate for

the different test categories. These flight test monitoring systems are organized around the flight recorders on each of the aircraft, and include a telemeter system that transmits signals to the flight test control system (FTCS), video cameras that record images for display on the pilot's head-up display screen or multi-function display screen, and applying "uplink" devices that receive data transmitted from the ground. Through the third test aircraft, the critical equipment being tested will be kept in the machine gun ammunition storage compartment, but since the fourth test aircraft will be used for testing of the fire control system, with it alone this equipment will be installed in the rear seat area.

As I have noted, actual testing of the first XF-2A flight test craft, which has already been transported to the Gifu Air Base, is to begin from around the end of April. The first item on the agenda is Phase I testing of basic flight capabilities. These Phase I tests are scheduled to continue until the third and fourth quarters of FY1996. In other words, Phase I testing will be conducted at least through October of this year.

Next, the researchers will move on to Phase II testing of the overall flight capabilities of the aircraft and its systems functions. These will take approximately one year, beginning during the third and fourth quarters of FY96. After that Phase III testing will begin sometime during the third or fourth quarter of FY97 (around November 1997). At this time, official control of the test planes will be transferred from the TRDI to the ASDF. After the four aircraft are delivered to the ASDF, before the second to fourth quarters of FY98, Phase III mission applicability testing will be conducted.

Following that, during the second to fourth quarters of FY98 (around August 1998), researchers will enter the fourth and last phase of flight testing. This Phase IV testing is due to be completed by the end of FY98. At the end of FY98 (March 1999), development of the F-2 will be wound up, when it is officially certified as being ready for acquisition by front-line units. This then is a rough outline of the road to development for the F-2 type aircraft.

ASDF Has 370 Fighters at End of FY95

At present (March 1996), the ASDF has 370 F-15, F-4, and F-1 fighter aircraft. A breakdown by aircraft model shows that there are 186 F-15J/DJ type, 111 F-4EJ type (including modified versions), and 73 F-1 type planes. Among these three aircraft types, the ASDF's number of F-15s is due to increase in the future, while the F-4EJs are slowly to be converted to surveillance use. From FY96, the F-1s will start to be decreased in numbers.

Let us take a closer look at how the numbers of ASDF fighters will be effected during the next few years. We will start with the mainstay fighter, the F-15.

The ASDF has 213 F-15s, including the four DJ-type planes to be procured for training purposes during FY96. With the four C-17 contracted aircraft requested during FY96, procurement of this type of plane will end. For the F-15s in general, through the end of FY95, 196 of these planes (157 J-Type and 39 DJ-Type) had been acquired, and 17 planes remain on order. These other 17 planes will be delivered before FY99, which will bring licensed production of the F-15s to an end.

The number of F-15s in the ASDF is forecast to grow gradually over the next few years, from 189 at the end of FY96 to 192 at the end of FY97, 196 at the end of FY98, and 198 at the end of FY99.

As for deployment of the aircraft, as of the end of FY95, seven air wings each had about 20 aircraft each. In addition, from FY95 the 306th Air Wing based at Komatsu Air Base in Ishikawa Prefecture began to receive them. So eventually eight air wings will be equipped with F-15s. They are: 201st Squadron and 203rd Squadron at Chitose Air Base 303rd Squadron at Komatsu Air Base, 204th Squadron and 305th Squadron at Hyakuri Air Base, 202nd Squadron at Nyutaharu, and 304th Squadron at Tsuiki. The F-4s have taken a back seat to the F-15s and their effectiveness has clearly peaked. The number of such fighters available has undergone attrition in the last few years as several of them have been converted to reconnaissance aircraft. As of the end of FY95, there were still 111 of these fighters on active duty. During FY96, that number is scheduled to be further whittled down to 109. It is then expected to continue to slide to 108 at the end of FY97, 106 at the end of FY98, and 105 at the end of FY99.

Plans call for 17 of these fighters to undergo RF modification into F-4EJ for reconnaissance missions. Counting one plane for which modification funding is included within the FY96 budget, 14 of this number have already been taken care of. Budget requests to cover modification of the three remaining fighters for reconnaissance purposes will be included in the FY97 to FY99 budgets. That is expected to wind up the work of modifying the aircraft into F-4EJ. Although the work to renovate the F-4EJ for reconnaissance purposes is due to continue, efforts to upgrade the performance of the fighters will finish with the budget request contained for one plane in the FY96 budget. All together, 90 of the fighters will have been so modified under the F-4EJ modification project, including one test aircraft.

Originally, it was intended that 96 F-4EJ fighters would have their capabilities upgraded. However, considering

that since FY93 when deployment had been more or less completed, there have been severe budget constraints, modification work has continued at the bare minimum pace of one plane per year. Since the air wings already have the required number of aircraft, the F-4EJ modification project will come to an end with the work on one plane called for in the FY96 budget. As of the end of FY95, the ASDF had 86 F-4EJs that had been so modified. The last contracted plane for FY96 will be delivered during FY98.

Three air wings are being equipped with the upgraded F-4EJs, namely the 301st Squadron at Nyutabaru Air Base, 302nd Squadron at Naha Air Base and the 306th Squadron at Komatsu Air Base. Among these, the 306th Squadron was due to start F-15 upgrading from FY95, and will be reorganized as an F-15 unit in FY96. That means that its modified F-4EJs will then become support fighters. In other words, one could say that the F-4EJs are following in the steps of another fighter that has seen better days, namely the F-1, in being put on the back shelf.

In fact, the number of F-1 support fighters in service is being drastically cut back beginning in FY95. In FY96 alone, 13 are due to be taken out of service. As of the end of the fiscal year the total number in service is projected to drop to 60. This drop in numbers reflects the trend toward modification to F-4EJ support fighters.

A perfect example of this shift from the F-1s to the upgraded F-4EJs can be seen with the 8th Squadron at Misawa Air Base in Aomori Prefecture, which is under the command of the 3rd Air Wing. The result is that by the end of FY96, the local support fighter contingent will have a newly reorganized lineup consisting of two F-1 flying corps and one containing upgraded F-4s.

According to projections on the decrease in the number of F-1s, at the end of FY96 there will be 60 aircraft, at the end of FY97 there will be 58, at the end of FY98 there will be 53, at the end of FY99 there will be 45, and by the end of FY2000 the total will decrease to a mere 36. So, as you can see, there will be a steady downward trend for the number of F-1s. Although it remains to be seen whether two squadron can be kept going through FY99, the new system to remain in effect over the next four years will be instituted at the end of FY96.

In any event, by the end of FY2000 there will be left only 36 F-1s, which means that the standard number of 40 aircraft for two flying corps will already have been breached. Moreover, from FY99, the F-2 units will steadily be established, and the first flying corps equipped with that plane are scheduled to be completely established during FY2000.

Strength of Other Major Aircraft Units

When it comes to other important types of aircraft besides fighters, as of the end of FY95 the ASDF possessed 93 aircraft of the following five types: the RF-4E/EJ reconnaissance plane, the E-2C early warning aircraft, the C-1 and C-130H transport aircraft, and the CH-47J transport helicopter. The breakdown of their numbers is as follows: RF-4E (12), RF-4EJ (11), E-2C (13), C-1 (27), C-130H (15), and CH-47J (15).

Among these, in recent years there has been a particularly notable increase in reconnaissance aircraft strength. The former National Defense Program Outline (NDPO), adopted in 1976, called for 24 such aircraft. However, for quite a long time there were actually only 14 of this type of aircraft in service.

Because of this situation, the five-year Mid-Term Defense Program [MTDP] that took effect in 1986 provided for modification of F-4EJ fighters so that they would become reconnaissance aircraft. RF-type experimental modification began from 1989.

As for the specific content of these improvements, in addition to modifying the fuselage for the installation of external surveillance pods, they also provided for new inertial navigation equipment and radio altimeters, as well as HF wireless and other equipment. When it came to the surveillance pods, allowance was made for the use of the method best suited to the mission in question, with three methods being available, namely: the long-range observation patrol (LOROP), tactical surveillance and tactical electronic reconnaissance (TEREC). Fuselage modification for the RF process began in 1989, and the ASDF acquired the first of the renovated aircraft in 1992. Full-scale work on modifying the F-4EJ into reconnaissance aircraft began in 1991, with contracts calling for 13 of them to be modified by 1995.

As I noted earlier, altogether 17 of the aircraft are due to be renovated for this purpose. Moreover, in addition to this conversion to the F-4EJ reconnaissance aircraft, work has also been going on to upgrade the capabilities of the RF-4E. Refurbishing work to upgrade the capabilities of the F-4E includes improvements of its forward-looking radar, installation of infrared surveillance equipment, installation of UHF/VHF wireless equipment, installation of radar warning equipment, and other innovations. Part of this work commenced during FY90 and the program of upgrading is to continue for several years. Thus, these efforts for upgrading the capabilities of the RF-4E and the RF conversion of 17 F-4EJs are designed to bring into existence a reconnaissance force of 29 aircraft.

When it comes to the E-2C early warning aircraft, it has already been more than a decade since early warning squadrons were officially reorganized into special squads for this purpose. Today these early warning flying corps are under the control of the Air Defense Command, and have their general headquarters at Misawa Air Base. At first, they had eight E-2Cs, but under the mid-term plan that began in 1986, they procured an additional five aircraft. Since May 1994, at which time they had acquired all of these aircraft, a system with 13 of these aircraft in place has been in existence.

Consequently, in time of emergency, there would be an early warning system in place that would allow sustained patrol missions on a 24-hour-a-day basis in three air zones around the Japan Archipelago.

When it comes to transport aircraft, it has been more than ten years now since the establishment of a system based on the use of two models of transport aircraft: the C-1 and C-130H. At present there are 27 C-1s in operation, although only 24 of them are truly ready for combat. These aircraft are operated by two transport flying corps: the 2nd Transport Squadron, based at Iruma Air Base in Saitama Prefecture, and the 3rd Squadron, based at Miho Air Base in Tottori Prefecture.

At present, it seems as though current conditions will continue to prevail, but it should be noted that the first period of the use of the C-1 for transport will soon reach 20 years. Consequently, sectional strength testing for the C-1s is planned, and we can expect to see values established for the lives of the aircraft. The C-130s started to be introduced back in 1981, and at present the ASDF has 15 of them in service. All of them have been deployed to the 1st Tactical Airlift Group based at Komaki Air Base in Aichi Prefecture. The FY95 budget provides for the procurement of an additional aircraft, and in the end 16 of the aircraft are scheduled to be in operation. The last of these is expected to be in ASDF hands in FY97.

The C-1s and C-130Hs constitute the backbone of the transport links among the ASDF's bases throughout Japan. On the other hand, the CH-147 transport helicopter is used for the transport of materials to radar sites, and other such tasks. At one time, these missions were referred to as "terminal transport," but recently you do not often hear this term. It is perhaps because the feel of the term left something to be desired.

The CH-47Js have been assigned to the Air Rescue Wing. Moreover, one helicopter transport detachment each has been deployed to the Northern, Central, and Western defense forces, as well as the Southwest Composite Air Division. At present there are 15 of these

helicopters in service, but their number will be gradually increased by six to 21 from FY97. That will mean that each of the helicopter detachments will be assigned five CH-47Js.

We are approaching the first major shakeup in the lineup of aircraft in around 25 years, and much modernization remains to be effected in the area of rescue aircraft. Thus, when it comes to rescue helicopters, we are seeing a shift from the V-107A to the UH-60J, while in the search and rescue helicopter sector a corresponding upgrading from the MU-2S to the U-125A is taking place.

The deployment of the rescue units has taken place at 11 locations, ranging from Chitose Air Base in the far north to Naha Air Base in southernmost Okinawa Prefecture. The idea is to pair rescue helicopters and search helicopters, so at each of these 11 sites throughout Japan there are four to six helicopters assigned. At present, the overwhelming majority of the helicopters in use are V-107As and MU-2Ss. However, the ASDF will acquire 14 UH-60J by the end of FY95. Procurement of the U-125A search and rescue helicopters began in FY92, a little bit after that for the UH-60J, and through FY95 three of them had been acquired. It is expected that eventually more than 40 of the UH-60Js and around 30 of the U-125As will be brought into service. That means that for quite some time to come the ASDF will continue to acquire both of these types of helicopters.

As for training aircraft, there are five types. They are: the T-3 introductory training aircraft, the T-1 intermediate training aircraft (for the 2nd-level introductory pilot training course), the T-4 intermediate training aircraft (for the basic pilot training course), the T-2 supersonic advanced trainer (for basic fighter pilot training and the fighter pilot's course), and the T-400 transport aircraft/search and rescue aircraft, etc. basic pilot's training aircraft. In addition, there are still quite a few T-33As being used for training duty.

Currently, the pilot education system has two courses: fighter courses and the transport aircraft/search and rescue aircraft courses. Up until the 2nd-level introductory pilot training course, the contents of the two streams are the same.

Future fighter crew members start with the T-1 course, advance through the T-4 and T-2 courses and end up by flying F-15s, F-4s or F-1s.

On the other hand, future pilots of transport aircraft, etc. also start out training on T-1s, then receive their core training on T-400s, before learning to fly specific kinds of operational aircraft.

In the future, it is expected that the current T-1 second-level introductory pilot training course will switch over to using the T-4. The envisaged new education/training streaming will look like this: T-3 to T-4 to T-2 to F-15 (or F-4), and T-3 to T-4 to T-400 to transport aircraft, etc.

Moreover, when it comes to something that has already happened, the decision has been made to use the F-2B as the successor for the T-2. Future fighter pilot education should be rationalized through the shift in the aircraft used as follows: modified T-3 to T-4 to F-2B (or F-15DJ).

Decrease of 30 Combat Aircraft to Approximately 400 Aircraft

The "NDPO for the Five Years from FY96" (New Outline), approved by the Cabinet on 28 November 1995, means that in terms of the ASDF's structure, there will be a shift from the current lineup of 28 early warning squadrons in the aircraft control and warning system command, 10 fighter interceptor squadrons, and approximately 350 fighters, to a new lineup with eight warning squadrons plus 20 warning squadrons, 10 interceptor fighter squadrons, and about 300 fighters.

The total number of combat aircraft is due to be cut by about 10 percent from approximately 430 aircraft at present to about 400 aircraft. About 300 of these will be fighters. Moreover, the number of aircraft per squadron will also be reduced by about 10 percent. Let me provide some more detailed explanation of this point.

At present the Aircraft Control and Warning Defense Command has 28 warning squadrons, as well as one squadron of E-2C early warning aircraft. Of these 28 warning squadrons, nine are in the Northern Air Defense Force, eight in the Central Air Defense Force, seven in the Western Air Defense Force and four in the Southwestern Composite Air Division. So as can be seen, they are weighted toward the more northern areas.

In the future, this lineup is to be reorganized into one with eight warning squadrons, 20 warning squadron, and one squadron equipped with the E-2Cs or E-767 AWACS. Deployment will be as follows: Northern Air Defense Force, two groups and seven squadrons; Central Air Defense Force, three groups and five squadrons; Western Air Defense Force, two groups and five squadrons; and Southwestern Composite Air Division: one group and three squadrons.

The next step will be to reduce the current 10 interceptor fighter squadrons to nine. At the same time, the number of aircraft in each squadron will be reduced by about 10 percent. This reduction in numerical strength will mean that those squadrons now having 22 aircraft will

have 20 aircraft, while those now having 20 aircraft will have 18 aircraft. Under this plan, the number of squadrons must be reduced from 10 to nine. So the idea is to eliminate one squadron. But actually things are working out a bit differently. In line with the adoption of the NDPO, the Cabinet approved on 15 December 1995 the new MTDP, which is to run from FY96 through FY2000. That plan has the following to say about the education and training system. "To make the education and training system more well-rounded, as well as more efficient and rationalized, the same kind of equipment and related materials possessed by fighter units should also be possessed by the educational and training detachments. [previous sentence in italics] This equipment on hand should include fighter interceptors (F-15DJ) and new support fighters (F-2)." (Author's italics)

It is certainly makes sense that fighter aircraft units and educational units should have the same kind of equipment. Such thinking also opens the way for the latter to equip themselves with the F-2B, the successor to the T-2 support fighter currently in use. But there is the plan for the elimination of one interceptor fighter squadron. How exactly is this supposed to be conducted? As a matter of fact, the general framework will not change. However, the 202nd Squadron stationed at Nyutabaru Air Base in Miyagi Prefecture will no longer have the mission to respond to intrusions into Japanese air space. Its reclassification as an "educational unit" will make possible the required "reduction" of one squadron. In this case, the F-15s used for training purposes will be subtracted from the total number of combat aircraft, which will allow for the required reduction in the number of fighters.

So, although on the surface "reductions and curtailments" will take place, we can also take the view that in reality not much is really going to change.

In regards to these things that I have been discussing, I would note that during the five years of the MTDP beginning in FY96, the ASDF will begin implementing the new plan, which will result in the reorganization of some of the aircraft control and warning units, and reduction in the interceptor fighter units. In other words: "While some of the warning squadrons in the district control and warning units will operate as part of the warning command, when it comes to the interceptor fighter units, one of the flying corps will be eliminated."

During the five years of the new mid-term defense program that begins in FY96, the ASDF proposes to add a total of 163 aircraft, including F-2 support fighters. This is a breakdown of these new aircraft: 4 F-15DJ interceptor fighters; 47 F-2 support fighters; 6 CH-

47J transport helicopters; 59 T-4 intermediate trainers; T-400 transport aircraft/basic pilot training aircraft, including rescue aircraft; modified T-3 introductory trainers; 14 U-125A search and rescue aircraft; 13 UH-60J rescue helicopters; and 7 U-4 multipurpose support aircraft.

Among the aircraft included in this breakdown, the following 29 are slated for procurement under the FY96 budget: F-15DJ (4); F-2 (11); T-4 (9); U-125A (3); UH-60J (1); and U-4 (1). Overall, this represents a 17.8 percent progression ratio. Nevertheless, this starting ratio is a bit lower than the target of 20 percent.

Even so, a breakdown by type shows that things are moving along quite smoothly, with the F-15s achieving 100 percent, and the high profile F-2 support fighter with 23.4 percent.

In any event, one cannot deny that the focus of attention in the new MTDP is on the F-2. But there are several other aircraft for the future that demand attention as well. One of these is the T-4.

Until now the T-4 has been regarded as an upgraded replacement for the T-33A that has been in use until now. From this fiscal year it will begin to be procured as an improvement for the T-1. In fact, the T-4 is also meant to be the successor to the T-1. That means that it is going to have to pull double duty as a trainer for the second-stage introductory pilot course and the basic pilot's training course (fighter course). Therefore, we can probably look forward to rationalization in the area of pilot education.

Another thing worth watching is the plan to equip the T-3 introductory-level trainers with turbo prop engines. The revamped plane tentatively bears the name "modified T-3," and it is expected that these changes will take place during the latter part of the life of the MTDP. The same trend towards equipping aircraft with turbo prop engines holds true for the Maritime Self-Defense Force's KM-2 introductory-level pilot trainer and the T-5.

As a carry over from the previous MTDP, the U-4 multipurpose support aircraft (whose civilian sector name is the Gulfstream IV) will also appear as a new aircraft in service in the near future. On the one hand, the U-4 is seen as an answer in the reduction in the strength of the B-65 command and liaison aircraft, while its introduction is also viewed by defense planners as an opportunity to upgrade multipurpose support capabilities for such things as air transport and training support. At present, there are five B-65s in service. In the end, the Defense Agency plans to have nine U-4s flying.

In addition, another aspect of the new MTDP that is noteworthy is the successor to the C-1 and a mid-air tanker refueler. Here I quote from the section in the program dealing with these two aircraft. "When it comes to a successor for the current transport aircraft (C-1), in addition to investigating the possibilities, we need to discuss the necessary measures to take. We also must study the various functions of mid-air refueling aircraft, including the performance of such mid-air tankers and the concept of their use, and respond appropriately after acquiring the results."

Although this excerpt is couched in the usual cautious language of the bureaucrat, it shows that proposals for a successor to the C-1 and a mid-air tanker are beginning to achieve concrete form. Here the expression "in addition to investigating the possibilities, we need to discuss the necessary measures to take" clearly reveals that planners are contemplating measures for the decisive introduction of a successor to the C-1. As for the second passage, related to the mid-air tanker refueler, this is a bit more difficult for someone who is not a bureaucrat to interpret. For my part, I interpret the expression "responding appropriately after acquiring the results" as even more positive than "discuss the necessary measures to take." However, I wonder if that is the impression the writers are really trying to convey.

Acquiring 130 F-2s

Related to the important tasks listed in the MTDP is the definite statement: "We need to acquire a new support fighter (the F-2) to serve as a successor to the current support fighter (the F-1), with the capabilities to defeat enemy aircraft over the ocean or at the water's edge, etc." Within various parameters, this represents a definite commitment at last to large-scale production of a next-generation support fighter.

Introduction of F-2 aircraft as the next-generation support fighter represents an effort to cover the reduction in the number of the ASDF's current support fighter, the F-1, and the T-2 advanced-level trainer, as well as a general effort at modernization. As the program states, "From FY95, 130 domestically produced aircraft will be acquired." More specifically, when it comes to these 130 aircraft, 83 of them will be single-seater F-2As and 47 will be double-seater F-2Bs. The double-seaters will be used for pilot education and training, and most of them will be assigned to educational units.

A breakdown of the 130 new aircraft by intended use shows that a total of 60 aircraft are to be assigned to support fighter detachments and three squadrons, 21 aircraft are to be used by educational units, and the 27 aircraft are to be in-place on stand-by duty (12 aircraft)

or to be ready to cover the loss of any aircraft now in service. When all of these are added to the two aircraft to be used as instructional materials at technical schools and eight aircraft to be made available for use by flying instructor groups, you get the total of 130 aircraft.

According to the equipment plan finalized by the Defense Agency in August 1995, when the nine aircraft to be used in the "Blue Impulse" (flight demonstration team) are added in, a total of 141 aircraft will need to be procured. However, such a procurement plan will have to be put on hold for the time being, although there is a possibility that it might be revived sometime in the future.

When it comes to the concrete estimates for equipment to be needed for each of the upcoming fiscal years, the plan accurately states, "We must clearly bear in mind the economic conditions prevailing at any given time, and harmonize our plans with other national policies." Supplementary tables for the MTDP show that the Defense Agency proposes to acquire 47 aircraft during the five years from FY96.

These aircraft are broken down by type, with 22 of them to be single-seaters and 25 to be double-seaters. Incidentally, the reason why the two-seater F-2Bs are being given priority is because of the imperative to train pilots to be able to organize operational units.

For FY96, the first year during which F-2s are to be first manufactured in large numbers, 12 aircraft were initially requested, although as I explained earlier this number was later reduced to 11 aircraft. Under the revised plan, 10 aircraft are to be supplied to operational units and one to a technical school as an educational instrument. In any event, although the original plan called for 20 new aircraft to go to flying corps, in reality they will only be able to get half that number.

Now then, the details of the C1 contract for the F-2 support fighters under the first revision of the FY96 budget are that there are to be seven single-seaters and four double-seaters. Total expenditures for the aircraft will amount to 130.872 billion yen, with an average unit price per aircraft of around 11.897 billion yen. This represents something of a reduction from the stage when rough estimate requests were presented, when the per plane price was estimated at around 12.3 billion yen.

The amount for the C-1 contracts for procurement during FY96 is to be budgeted through five-year national bonds. Acquisition is to occur during the two years FY99 and FY2000. However, four-year national bonds are to be used from the time of the C-2 contracts in FY97. It is expected that all the aircraft contracted for during next fiscal year should be acquired during

FY2000. Consequently, at the end of FY2000 half of the aircraft under the C-1 contracts, will be available for the creation of the initial F-2 squadron. It is expected that the 3rd Squadron of the 3rd Air Wing at Misawa Air Base will be designated as the first F-2 flying corps.

From FY97, procurement of the new aircraft will continue at an annual pace of about 12 aircraft. In FY2003 the second F-2 squadron will be born. It is highly likely that the 6th Squadron of the 8th Air Wing at Tsuiki Air Base in Fukuoka Prefecture will become the chosen unit. At this junction, all of the surviving F-1 squadron will be disbanded, and after an interim period during which F-2s and the modified F-4EJs are used together, all of the support fighter squadron will uniformly fly the F-2.

Even should things go smoothly, this stage should not be reached until FY2005, around nine years from now. Normally it takes about nine years from the time that development on a new aircraft commences until the first test plane is delivered. Then it takes another 10 years before all the operational aircraft are acquired by the units that will use them. Even so, it would appear that the lead times involved here are even longer for the development of combat aircraft. It is really quite startling.

Moving To Modify, Modernize F-15

In the first part of the section on important tasks to be undertaken, the new MTDP specifically mentions the creation of an air defense capability. In fact, the first section has the following to say about an air defense interceptor capability, "In order to respond to future trends in technology levels, and in order to be able to make effective use of our current interceptor fighters (F-15), we must experiment with modernization improvements." Moreover, Section 2 specifically calls for improvements in the capabilities of the Patriot land-to-air missile.

Incremental improvements for modernization of the F-15s also receive considerable attention. In fact, the previous MTDP that ended in FY95 said the same thing. So the new program is doing no more than repeat this point. Also, the procurement of F-15s is due to wind up during this fiscal year. So the new plan seems to be calling for the development of a newly improved test aircraft during the next five years, so that large-scale production of the newly modernized aircraft can begin during the following MTDP to start in FY2001.

In addition to the modernization improvement to be steadily pursued henceforth, it should be noted that various types of F-15 have already proliferated. One major change concerning this type of plane occurred from

the time of the C-6 contract in 1985 when domestically produced central computers began to be installed. Also, from the time of the C-12 procurement contract in 1991 more efficient F100 engines (with DEEC electronic control systems) were incorporated. More specifically, in addition to these changes we can point to such things as: the installation of ALQ-8 on-board radio wave jamming devices and UHF/VHF wireless units, as well as first-stage engine improvements (through use of core modules that increase durability). There is also a new type of signal control system for the APG-63 fire control radar, which has furnished the aircraft with the dual simultaneous capabilities to search out and pursue targets. In fact, this radar makes it possible to search out and pursue multiple mid-air targets. It also has the capability to fire Sparrow missiles on one of them.

Some of these series of improvements are also included on the ASDF's own list of priority improvements. Generally speaking, it is more or less simply applying as is the U.S. Air Force's MSIP (multi-step improvement program) for the F-15.

Implementation of such improvements during procurement amounts to de facto recognition of the proliferation of several different varieties of the plane. However, this situation creates operational problems, which makes it necessary to conduct periodic renovation to ensure uniformity, as well as making continuous improvements in the F-15s. Future plans for modernization work on the F-15s must proceed from the standpoint of bringing the specifications of the various types into accordance with the specifications of the latest types.

The biggest problem when it comes to the ASDF being able to continue to use the F-15 for a long time in the future as its interceptor fighter is the need for modernization of its fire control radar and on-board AAM. We can observe the modernization work on the F-15 proceeding in this direction. Specifically, it is taking the form of plans for a switch from the APG-63 fire control radar to the APG-63 (V) 1.

The APG-63 (V) 1 fire control radar is a high performance improved version of the APG-63. It is the key to the U.S. Air Force's F-15 modernization plan. Large-scale production of the new radar for the U.S. Air Force is scheduled to start from September 1997. It will use the software for the most advanced radar of this type, the APG-70 radar (the radar to be installed in the F-15E) software, while part of its hardware will be uniform with that used in the APG-63 and the APG-70. This will offer greater extension capabilities for use with equipment adopted in the future.

On the other hand, modernization of the on-board AAM system is intended to improve the capabilities of the fire

control radar. Consequently, the adoption of the APG-63 (V) 1 is directly tied to the introduction of the AIM-120 AMRAAM. Hughes Aircraft Co. of the United States (the manufacturer of both the APG-63 radar and AIM-120) is well aware of this fact and now making great efforts to sell both systems to Japan. The problem here is that TRDI is now developing the XAAM-4 radar-guided missile, which is similar to the AIM-120.

The AAM-4, also now under development, is intended to be the successor to the AIM-7M Sparrow. Practical testing of the new system is due to start from FY98. No matter how you look at things, introduction of the AIM-120 and adoption of the AAM-4 represent a certain degree of redundancy.

Naturally, Japan would like to see the AAM-4 adopted as the standard, but its position is weakened by the U.S. pointing to the need for interoperability. Another factor that must be weighed is the uncertainty as to whether development of the XAAM-4 will proceed as planned, seeing as how large-scale production of the AIM-120 has already commenced.

Although some kind of compromise might seem advisable, there is a lot of waste involved here, and it seems inevitable that Japan will have to deviate from its plan for domestic production of the new missile. When all things are said and done, preservation of interoperability with the U.S. Air Force remains important. You get the feeling that Japan's defense planners are going to be faced with a difficult decision on this point.

In contrast to the situation with the improvement in the capabilities of the F-4EJ, which was developed in line with the original thinking of the ASDF, when it comes to Japan's F-15s, we have to remember that these aircraft in many ways represent the need to proceed in tandem with the U.S. Air Force. On the other hand, when it comes to the modernization of the F-15, the viewpoints of the ASDF and the U.S. Air Force, which will soon begin introducing the F-22 high performance tactical fighter, are different. So at present it remains unclear how the performance of the F-15 will be improved.

Creating an Operations Position for AWACS

Another important area identified in the new MTDp is the creation of an operations position for the early warning and control aircraft (AWACS). This amounts to admission that various kinds of preparations are underway for the acquisition of E-767 AWACS and the creation of an operations position for them.

The introduction of AWACS began with initial procurement of two E-767 AWACS in FY93 under the previous MTDp. Following that, two more of the aircraft were

procured under the FY94 budget. Each of these aircraft carried a price tag of around 57 billion yen, making them roughly four times as expensive as a F-15 fighter. In other words, they are extremely expensive aircraft. The ASDF is to receive the first of these aircraft in January 1999, with the remaining three aircraft also delivered during FY99.

The ASDF's introduction of the AWACS will make it the keystone of Japan's air combat capability. The E-2C early warning aircraft currently in service for the most part are meant to provide supplementary data for the ground-based radar that can only cover certain sectors. However, the E-767 AWACS are specifically meant to operate as "early warning and control aircraft" offering greatly enhanced control capabilities. We might say that in addition to providing the early warning functions afforded by the E-2Cs, the E-767 AWACS will also offer more sophisticated command and control functions.

At first the view was strong among defense planners that it would be advantageous to introduce the E-3, now in use in the U.S. Air Force and others. However, because of factors affecting the prime contractor, Boeing Corp., the main production line for this plane had already been shut down. Moreover, seeing that there was little prospect that the line will be started up again, it was decided to introduce instead a modified version of the B-767 (the E-767).

At that point, consideration was also given to a modified version of the C-130, but it was decided that in terms of functions and cost effectiveness the E-767 was superior. That decision seems natural to a layman. In fact, although it might sound a bit rude, I cannot understand how the modified C-130 and E-767 could possibly be seriously compared. Perhaps it was because of protestations regarding costs from the Ministry of Finance in these financially strapped times.

The E-767 was developed from the base of the Boeing 767 passenger jet, as a new type early warning aircraft with the same warning and control system as with the E-3 installed aboard. It was developed from the B-767-200ER modified model that allows for greater flying range.

The B-767 is a passenger aircraft with twin turbofan engines that is flown by airlines throughout the world. Its superb flight capabilities have won uniform praise. This aircraft has an excellent maximum speed capability of 450 knots per hour and it can remain aloft for about 12 hours at a time. It thus is able to fly far out to sea in a very short period of time and it seems fair to say the AWACS is capable of extended patrol missions. Although the base for the E-3 AWACS was the B-707,

the B-767 is a new generation aircraft. It seems fair to say that in overall flight capabilities the E-767 AWACS is definitely superior to the E-3.

The Defense Agency has identified the following as the special characteristics of the E-767 AWACS. Let me break them down by category:

(1) Superior speed efficiency and sophisticated patrol capabilities. These aircraft can reach distant areas in short order and carry out patrols over an extended period of time. Because of their sophisticated patrol capabilities, they can "see" for long distances. Moreover, their superior extended flight capabilities mean that they can monitor broad geographical areas.

(2) The on-board radar (APY-2 surveillance radar) offers superior detection capabilities. It has sophisticated detection capabilities vis-a-vis flying targets operating over land or above the surface of the ocean, or at considerable distances. The APY-2 radar used by the ASDF has special enhanced capabilities for detecting targets over the ocean.

(3) The aircraft have multiple mission controls (14 units). This allows the plane to perform a variety of missions, including information gathering and air defense combat. There are two pilots aboard and a total standard crew, including the pilots, of about 20, including various kinds of operators.

(4) Various kinds of communications equipment (a total of 18 units) has been installed aboard. As a result the plane can simultaneously engage in automatic data transmission and voice communications with various friendly operators, including "BADGE systems," interceptor aircraft and E-2Cs. The 18 wireless units include two HF sets, 12 UHF sets, three VHF-AM sets and one VHF-FM. In addition, there are other data links aboard.

How then will the E-767 AWACS be employed, and what kind of connection will they have to the E-2Cs currently in use? The following is a broad outline of how the AWACS are intended to be used, based on materials released by the Defense Agency at the time that it decided to introduce them.

Normally, the AWACS are to be used in such a way as to take maximum advantage of the superior flying capabilities and early warning monitoring capabilities of the E-767. Their missions will relate primarily to collecting information in Japan's territorial air space or in adjacent air space. An E-767 has the capability to simultaneously detect multiple aircraft and other moving objects in a broad area. Hopefully, improved information collection abilities will allow for the best possible use of this detection capability. In addition, it

goes without saying that these aircraft will be used for training purposes.

On the other hand, in an emergency, just as with the E-2C, the AWACS will be able to take advantage of their ability to supplement land-based radar functions. This is especially appropriate for early warning monitoring taking place out over the ocean far from Japan's shores. It is also believed that by working in tandem with the E-2Cs, the AWACS will be able to provide effective and highly efficient early warning monitoring functions vis-a-vis intruders coming in at low altitudes.

Moreover, in circumstances in which the ground early warning and control system is knocked out of commission by an enemy attack, the E-767s will be able to execute substitute command functions from the air for areas upon which damage has been inflicted. Naturally, the E-767s have a higher degree of survivability than land-based warning and command systems.

In order to execute these activities and missions in an efficient manner, of the four E-767s, one will always be on warning patrol. The aircraft will also be expected to operate in a very mobile fashion. In other words, they will not operate in a fixed manner within certain designated air spaces. Rather they will operate in mobile fashion, responding to conditions as they arise. Also, Hamamatsu Air Base has been designated as the home base for the E-767s, their stance is premised on highly mobile operations.

To offer an example, at present the Misawa Air Base's E-2Cs operate in fixed fashion in the northern air space, carrying out 24-a-day patrols that move back and forth among three fixed patrol points. However, the E-767s will be expected to operate in a mobile manner in response to circumstances. They will carry out monitoring in various air spaces, such as over the waters off the Noto Peninsula on the Japan Sea side, over the ocean to the east of the Boso Peninsula, and over the Nansei Islands in the far southwest. When it comes to early warning and information processing capabilities, compared to the E-2C, the E-767 AWACS is in a different class altogether. In addition, it can remain aloft much longer. Crew conditions are also superior. The question then becomes: how will these new aircraft mesh with the old early warning and control system, command system and telecommunications functions. We might say that this will prove one of the most important tests for the ASDF under the new MTDP, since the AWACS are going to be introduced almost precisely at the same time that the F-2 support fighter units are organized.

PAC-2 Upgrade of Patriot Missile

One of the mainstays of Japan's air defense strength along with its interceptor fighters is its force of Patriot surface-to-air missiles. The new MTDP clearly recognizes the need to continue to upgrade capabilities in this area.

The ASDF began to switch over from the Nike-J to the Patriot missiles in 1989, first with instructional anti-aircraft units and then gradually introducing them to regular anti-aircraft units. Deployment of the new weapons was completed by the end of FY95. The new NDPO also calls for existing surface-to-air missile units to continue as is, and for the maintenance of six anti-aircraft detachments.

The "improvement of capabilities" referred to in the MTDP refers to the shift from the present Patriot PAC-1 type to the PAC-2 level. Improvement to the PAC-2 level primarily involves among other things the following steps: (1) expansion of the scope of radar search, (2) upgrading target destruction capabilities, and (3) refining ECCM (antiradar and jamming) capabilities. We can expect that these improvements will lead to limited anti-missile capabilities and the ability to counteract strong radar jamming.

The upgrading from the Patriot PAC-1 to the PAC-2 level began in FY93 with gradual procurement of the new components. The changeover is being made at a rate of about two anti-aircraft squadrons per year, and is being funded at that level. The actual switchovers will begin during this fiscal year, and plans call for six anti-aircraft squadrons to complete the changeover to the PAC-2 regimen by FY98. Separate from this, the MTDP addresses guided missile defense under the "Miscellaneous" category. At one point it notes: "When it comes to guided missile defense, in terms of operational effectiveness, cost effectiveness, etc., it is necessary to reach conclusions that are based on thorough evaluation from a comprehensive perspective." Note that here the plan simply says "to reach conclusions" and does not spell out what kinds of policies are to be pursued in this regard in the future. In other words, the immediate goal is to reach conclusions, and to that end an in-depth "integrated research survey on the status of Japan's air defense system" is scheduled to begin from FY96.

The conclusions of this investigation will be revealed in due time, but even as the Patriot PAC-2 switchover continues, on the horizon we can begin to make out what will eventually come about with the introduction of the PAC-3 ELINT (electronic intelligence) currently being developed by the U.S. Army.

The introduction of the PAC-3 ELINT will involve not only partial revision of the PAC-2 land-based systems, including software. A new era of procurement of missiles themselves used in the system might actually result in a change from the Patriot to another missile.

F-2 Operations Scenarios

The last year of the new MTDP, FY2000, will certainly be a big year for the ASDF. Two large-scale projects are expected to achieve major milestones during that year. First, there is the F-2 support fighter aircraft; secondly, there is the E-767 early warning control aircraft.

The F-2 will begin to be deployed to operational units from FY99. In FY2000 the first squadron using them is to be formed at Misawa Air Base in Aomori Prefecture. The ASDF will receive the E-767s in FY97 and FY98. While it is doing so, from the last quarter of FY97 it will commence operational testing, and full-scale operational testing will start in FY98. In conjunction with this acquisition of the E-767s, some of the squadrons will be reorganized so that warning squadrons equipped with E-2Cs will no longer be directly under the jurisdiction of the Air Defense Command. We can also look forward to the newly formed E-767 squadrons being integrated into the air defense warning and control units.

In any event, in FY2000 the first squadron made up of F-2 support combat aircraft will be born. The new MTDP calls for 47 aircraft to be used for this duty. The Defense Agency requested funding for 12 aircraft in FY96, and was granted authorization for 11 aircraft. That leaves 36 aircraft to be funded. Estimates call for nine aircraft a year to be procured from next fiscal year. However, during FY97, 10 aircraft will actually be procured in order to outfit the first new squadron. That means that 26 aircraft will have to be procured thereafter. Even should unexpected complications arise to a certain degree, it seems likely that in FY2003 the second F-2 squadron will become a reality. Incidentally, each of the F-2 squadron is expected to have 20 aircraft—18 F-2A single-seat aircraft and two double-seaters.

Procurement of the F-2s for equipping the third squadron will commence from FY2001, carrying over into the next MTDP. Altogether, there are plans to acquire a total of 130 F-2s. During the current five-year period, the goal is to acquire 47 aircraft. However, given that there is little hope that the remaining 83 aircraft could be acquired during the five years of the next MTDP, that means that acquisition of quite a few of them will probably have to be put off until the following defense plan. As one can see, acquisition of these 130 combat aircraft is thus quite a task that will take more than 10 years.

Ultimately, how will the ASDF use these F-2s, which will require over ten years to deploy to its units?

In cases where the main role of the F-2s is expected to be air interdiction combat, the ASDF appears to be thinking in terms of the kind of operational configuration conceptualized in the U.S. Air Force's "strike package."

The U.S. Air Force's "strike package" operations received quite a bit of publicity as a result of the Gulf war. Before that, however, at the time of the Vietnam War, the U.S. Air Force had already been employing this kind of strategic bombing allied operational method. For its part, the U.S. Navy referred to this operational mode as "alpha strike."

The "strike packages" used during the Gulf war generally had the following makeup in terms of aircraft: 32 F-16 fighter-bombers (equipped with conventional bombs) as the main attack force, 16 F-15 fighters, eight F-4G "Wild Weasels" as air suppression component, four EF-111A jammers, as well as mid-air fueling support from a fleet of 15 KC-135 tanker aircraft. That makes a total of 75 aircraft.

When "smart" guided weapons were used in attacks, the number of F-16 main attack aircraft was reduced by half to 16. That meant that the number of supporting mid-air refueling tankers could also be reduced. Nevertheless, the defensive fighter and air defense control unit components did not change.

Nevertheless, it would be wrong to assume that all the strike packages employed at the time of the Gulf war conformed to this model, or that such strike packages were used to achieve every kind of objective.

In any event, when the U.S. Air Force was attacking Iraqi nuclear development facilities, etc. or important targets that were rigorously defended, it tended to stick with this kind of standard strike package. Against staunchly defended objectives, it simply would not do to throw in attack units that were basically defenseless when it came to enemy attack.

The question then becomes what form the ASDF "strike package" will take. Leaving aside for the moment the fact that the aircraft number might vary depending upon the types of objectives and the scale of the attacks, a typical "strike package" is likely to be made up of the following four types of aircraft: F-2 support combat aircraft; F-15 fighters; F-15J modified electronic warfare support aircraft (escort jammers); and E-767 early warning aircraft. In addition, we can expect to see mid-air refueler tanker aircraft added in the future.

Here, I should explain a little bit about the "escort jammer" type aircraft. These escort jammers are electronic warfare support aircraft that accompany the F-2s and jam enemy radar.

On board they will have high output, broad-range EEC electronic jamming units. Most likely they will be installed and operate beneath the main wings of the F-15s. For that reason, research testing of the electronic counter measure (ECM) devices began in FY94 and plans call for their development to be completed by FY99. The actual use of the escort jammers will proceed in line with the pace of the organization of the F-2 squadrons.

Scenarios envisaging the use of the ASDF's version of the "strike package," centered around F-2s, F-15s and escort jammers, include the following. The objectives of air interception combat using F-2s might be landing invasion force vessels that are being protected by enemy battleships.

Such air interdiction combat would be conducted under the direction of E-767s flying overhead. Protective F-15 fighters would fly along with squadrons of F-2 support fighters. Or they might proceed them, to wipe out any enemy air cover over the transport vessels. Moreover, "escort jammers" could from stand-off distance engage in electronic jamming, which could strip away the air defense functions of the enemy fleet.

In such a situation, F-2s, each of which would be equipped with four ASM-2 missiles, operating under the command of the E-767s, would swarm in from all directions for lightning-fast antiship missile attacks before disappearing just as quickly as they had appeared. Here the key to victory would be whether or not the F-2s launch as many antiship missiles as possible in the shortest possible amount of time, and thereby push the enemy's fleet air defense capabilities to their saturation point. In such an eventuality, the ships would be forced to evade every antiship missile sporadically launched in their direction. No mean feat indeed.

Then the second attack wave would arrive: F-2s equipped with smart bombs. With their guided bombs, they could finish off the ships that had been hit by the first wave's ASM attack, or target the now defenseless landing craft one by one.

Some of my readers no doubt might voice doubts as to whether conditions would ever arise in which Japan's F-2s would ever have to launch such a massive attack with antiship missiles. However, I would point out that when the F-SX concept was first formulated, such a scenario was far from simply some kind of fabrication, given the existence of the Soviet Pacific Fleet and the threat that

it posed. It was very much a reality. Fortunately, today we no longer face such a threat. However, we cannot predict the future. Nor can we reason that because such a threat "does not exist" at present, thus in the future it "will not exist."

Forecasts for the future are another thing entirely. If a threat were to materialize, we would not have the time to respond to it. That is clear from the fact that F-2 development takes 10 years, and it takes another 10 years before squadrons equipped with that plane can be properly equipped.

Moving To Introduce Midair Tankers

When the ASDF decided to introduce the E-767 early warning control aircraft, it used the expression "to compensate for functions that are lacking." In the same sense, we must consider the absence of large-scale transport aircraft and midair tanker aircraft as functions that are lacking. In drawing the future image of the ASDF, it is indispensable to consider the future course for these two aircraft.

As I have already noted, this point was also addressed in the new MTDP. It uses the succinct phrase "a successor for the transport aircraft (C-1)." We can understand this as including the idea of a large transport aircraft.

When it comes to this C-1 successor aircraft, there is the following reference, "after investigation, we must discuss necessary steps." In this connection, in FY97 fatigue testing of the sectional construction of the C-1 is planned. Through these fatigue testing of the sectional construction for the section where the fuselage and wings meet, cumulatively amounting to about 20,000 flight hours, researchers were able to verify the use-endurance values for the C-1. This data has been of use for planning the phasing out of the C-1 and developing a successor for it. When it comes to the C-X, the tentative name given to the successor for the C-1, it seems highly likely that this will be a domestically developed aircraft. Since to start with the C-1 was a domestically produced plane, it seems only natural that its successor should also be domestically produced. For that reason, technological development is proceeding on a number of fronts. At least it seems fair to say that there is no anxiety when it comes to technology. Nevertheless, the decision on adoption is influenced by a number of complex factors.

The first problem is fact that the scale of production for the successor for the C-1 is certain to be small. In fact, the Defense Agency has acquired only 31 C-1 aircraft to date. It is expected that the number of successor aircraft ordered will be about the same. With such a small number of aircraft to be manufactured,

it is very difficult to develop a developmental base. In response to this consideration, defense planners in planning for a successor for the P-3C patrol aircraft, have been thinking in terms of unifying specifications for the multipurpose MPA and C-X aircraft.

If the MPA and C-X were to be combined into a single aircraft, at the bare minimum we might expect that 100-150 aircraft would be procured. This is certainly an excellent idea, but one that would be most difficult to execute properly if the plan materialized. That is because the envisaged respective operational demands of the MPA and C-X are totally different. That does not mean that points of convergence cannot be discovered. But there seems a very high probability that dissatisfaction will remain. There is another impediment to the development of the C-X. That is the lack of a mid-air tanker aircraft. On this point the program stated, "We should thoroughly investigate the functions of the midair tanker aircraft, to include the efficiency, performance concepts, etc., of the midair tanker aircraft, and after getting the results, respond appropriately."

To the extent that we can judge from this excerpt, it would seem that the feeling is that the introduction of the midair tanker aircraft should have precedence over the successor to the C-1. If a mid-air tanker aircraft is to be introduced, then the Boeing 767-300 T/T (a midair tanker cum transport aircraft), which is in the same series as the E-767 early warning system aircraft, would appear to be the leading candidate. And Boeing Corp. indeed has been very active in promoting its sales prospects.

As the working name for the aircraft, the B767-300T/T, indicates, in addition to its main objective of functioning as a tanker aircraft, this plane is also meant to handle transport duties. Should the B-767-300 T/T be introduced, then we can imagine that to a certain extent its capabilities will overlap with those of the C-X. And that would create problems.

The need for a C-17-class, large long-distance transport aircraft has also been pointed out. But the problems involved are extremely thorny. McDonnell-Douglas Co. has proposed a C-17 class cargo/tanker and is giving it a double label as both long-distance transport aircraft and midair tanker aircraft. So although at this point, it would probably be correct to conclude that both the C-X and mid-air tanker will be introduced, at this point in time we cannot overlook the special conditions surrounding the C-X.

Japan: National Space Agency Plans 2002 Moon Surface Probe

OW2805055696 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 25 May 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Space Development Agency [NASDA] and the Education Ministry's Space and Astronautical Science Institute [SASI] plan to jointly launch Japan's first moon explorer in FY2002. Employing a new "H2-A" rocket, they will launch three unmanned spacecraft, one of which will land on the moon. The project is designed to probe resources on the moon and conduct a survey needed for the construction of a moon station for astronomical observation. The venture is expected to cost 40-50 billion yen. The Space Activities Committee (chaired by Hidenao Nakagawa, director general of the Science and Technology Agency) will soon approve of the project.

Japan will be the third nation to make a soft-landing on the moon, after the former Soviet Union and the United States. The moon probe will be conducted using a main satellite, which orbits the moon in two hours, an exploring vehicle that will land on the moon, and a relay satellite for communications between the main satellite and the moon vehicle. These spacecraft, which will weigh 1.8 tons in total, will be launched simultaneously with an H2-A rocket, the improved version of the present main rocket "H-2."

The project is aimed at drawing a detailed map with errors within plus or minus 10 meters and at observing the movement of the moon. It will also collect data necessary to select a site for a planned moon station for astronomical observation. The moon is said to be abundant in resources of high industrial value, such as helium-3, which is used as fuel for nuclear fusion, rare earth elements, and rare metals.

In the past, the SASI sent 13-kg "Hagoromo" and 180-kg "Hiten" moon probing satellites into the lunar orbit. However, it has not explored the moon surface.

North Korea

DPRK: Radio Reports Vice Premier's Activities in PRC

SK2505125696 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A DPRK Government delegation led by Vice Premier Hong Song-nam stayed in the PRC from 21 to 25 May. During the stay, the delegation toured three parks on the outskirts of Beijing, and was invited to a welcoming banquet held at the People's Congress Hall.

The delegation visited the Beijing Economic and Technology Development District, and inspected the Songgwan Clothing Plant in (Shuni) Prefecture on the outskirts of Beijing.

DPRK: Vice Premier, Delegation Return From PRC
SK2505134096 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
 1300 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A DPRK Government delegation led by Vice Premier Hong Song-nam returned home by plane on 25 May from a visit to the PRC. Kim Yunhyok, vice premier; Choe U-chin, vice foreign minister; Kim Chu-song, vice chairman of the External Economic Affairs Commission; and Sui Xudong, acting PRC ambassador to the DPRK, received the delegation at the airport.

The delegation departed Beijing on 25 May. Liu Xiangdong, assistant minister of the PRC Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, functionaries concerned, and the DPRK ambassador to the PRC saw the delegation off.

DPRK: Scientific-Technical Cooperation Delegation Leaves for PRC

SK2705115496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
 0959 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 27 (KCNA) — A DPRK Government delegation of scientific and technical cooperation led by Kim Ung-ho, vice-chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology, left here today for China.

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN Calls Rimpac 96 'Reckless Military Action'

SK2505151096 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
 0855 GMT 25 May 96

[NODONG SINMUN 25 May commentary: "Rimpac Must Stop"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even while raving in support of peace and talks, the United States behaves in a quite different manner.

According to reports, the large-scale Rimpac 96 joint military exercise has been frantically staged in the Pacific since 22 May at the initiative of the United States. Massive forces, including troops from the U.S. forces, the Japanese Self-Defense Force, and the South Korean puppet forces, are participating in the war exercise, which will last for a month.

U.S. warmongers describe the joint military exercise as something to prepare for regional armed conflict and rave that they should deter someone else's aggression and (re)establish control. This in itself shows the aggressiveness and dangerousness of this exercise.

The Rimpac-96 joint military exercise is a reckless military action that runs counter to today's international situation, which has changed since the end of the Cold War and to the trend of the times.

This war exercise is a byproduct of the Cold War. In the period of the Cold War, the United States staged an anticommunist, antisocialist war scenario called the Rimpac joint military exercise under the pretext of containing the communist threat and, in particular, the Soviet Union's southward advance. It used the Rimpac war exercise, also called the Pacific Rim exercise, as an important form of military leverage to acquire superiority in strength in the Asia-Pacific region, strengthen the U.S.-Japan-South Korea triangular military alliance, and overpower socialism from the east.

In the period of the Cold War, the United States used the Rimpac war exercise as a form of leverage in the East-West confrontation, under the pretext of containing the communist threat and the Soviet Union's southward advance. Therefore, since the cold war has ended and the Soviet Union has collapsed, the United States should stop doing so as a matter of course.

As the East-West confrontation has ended, Rimpac has been deprived of its mission and duty. Nevertheless, the U.S. warmongers have continued the Rimpac joint military exercise even though the cold war is over, alleging that instability remains and there is a need to cope with regional disputes.

The U.S. warmongers have never abandoned their policy of strength but have instead tried to increase their military influence in Asia and expand their rule there through military means. A serious problem has come about as the spearhead of Rimpac has been directed at the Korean Peninsula despite the fact that the cold war has ended. The fact that the spearhead of Rimpac has been directed at the Korean Peninsula is proven by the fact that troops from Japan and the South Korean puppet forces are participating in the Rimpac-96 war exercise to conduct an unprecedented exercise for landing operations and naval blockades in preparation for a contingency on the Korean Peninsula. Landing operations mean an attack. Launching a surprise attack on us from the sea is one of the operational schemes of the U.S. warmongers.

The Rimpac-96 war exercise is a more dangerous and grave problem because it is being staged at a

time when the tension on the Korean Peninsula is running higher than ever before. Provocative military movements against us have increased in South Korea on an unprecedented scale. The area south of the DMZ has turned into an armed area and a position for staging an attack for northward aggression. The U.S. bellicose elements and the South Korean puppets are almost daily staging war exercises aimed at launching a preemptive strike at our Republic. At this time, the U.S. warmongers have started the Rimpac-96 joint military exercise against us. This indicates that their maneuvers to crush the DPRK by force are being escalated and that the Korean war scenario is being put into practice.

Flush with victory after the Persian Gulf war, they are miscalculating that they can defeat us and achieve an overwhelming victory with U.S.-led multinational forces, just like they did at that time.

The United States reeks of gunpowder on one hand and raves about peace and talks on the other. This two-faced behavior is truly despicable.

The Rimpac-96 war exercise will only result in further aggravating the situation on the Korean Peninsula, increasing the danger of war, and destroying peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Asian people are watching this war exercise with vigilance. This is no coincidence. The Rimpac-96 war exercise, which goes against the trend of the time towards detente and peace, must stop.

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN Condemns Rimpac 96 Military Exercise

*SK2505041196 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0401 GMT 25 May 96*

["Rimpac" Should Be Discontinued" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA) — A large-scale joint military exercise, known as "Rimpac 96", which started on May 22 involving U.S., Japanese, South Korean puppet and other forces, is a reckless military action contrary to the international situation which has changed after the end of the Cold War and to the trend of the time, says NODONG SINMUN today.

In a commentary the daily says:

In the period of the Cold War, the United States had used the "Rimpac" exercise as a leverage of the East-west confrontation under the pretext of containing "communist threat" and the Soviet Union's "southward advance." Since the Cold War was terminated and the

Soviet Union collapsed, however, it should have stopped it.

Nevertheless, U.S. warmongers have continued the manoeuvres, alleging that there still remain "factors of instability" and "regional disputes to be coped with".

Since the end of the Cold War, the spearhead of "Rimpac" has been directed to the Korean peninsula.

The "Rimpac 96" is very dangerous and grave because it is being held at a time when the tension on the Korean peninsula is running higher than ever before.

The DPRK-targeted exercise indicates that the U.S. bellicose elements' efforts to stifle the DPRK with strength has been escalating and the scenario of another Korean war is being put into practice.

The United States, despicably enough, is pursuing such a two-pronged policy as engaging in military drills while crying for "peace" and "talks".

The "Rimpac 96" will only result in further aggravating the situation of the Korean peninsula, increasing the danger of war and wrecking peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

The exercise going against the trend of the time towards detente and peace should be discontinued.

DPRK: U.S., ROK Staging 'Aggressive' War Exercises

*SK2505090796 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
0754 GMT 23 May 96*

[Unattributed talk: "Warmongers' Frenzy of War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The war frenzy of some bellicose quarters of the United States and the traitorous Kim Yong-sam group is becoming more reckless with each passing day.

The U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff and the puppet Air Force Chief of Staff held a war confab in South Korea some time ago, and discussed what they called the new war execution method with air force as the main force. There, they raved about the strengthening of mutual military cooperation between U.S. and puppet air forces.

Today the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are frantically staging northward aggressive war exercise commotions almost every day not only on the ground and the sea but also in the air. Amid this situation, the rascals held a confab and discussed the strengthening of what they called air-strike operation against the northern half of the Republic. This clearly shows what stage the enemy's war frenzy has reached.

As was already known, on 14 and 15 May, the South Korean puppets again staged a large-scale joint northward aggressive air war exercise in collusion with the U.S. imperialist warmongers.

They frantically carried out the reckless war exercise day and night every day by assuming as the operational stage the sky above the West Sea [Yellow Sea] off the Sosan peninsula, the sky above areas of Wonju and Chunchon, and the sky above the East Sea [Japan Sea] off Ulchin. Mobilized in this exercise were the South Korean puppet Air Force, the U.S. imperialist 7th Air Force, and 1,100-odd fighters including attack airplanes aboard ships belonging to the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The commotions on playing with fire, kicked off under the support of an E-3 air command aircraft which took off from an overseas base, were adventurous military provocation maneuvers aimed at reviewing the realistic nature of the combined operational plan of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets. This operational plan is designed to launch a surprise preemptive air attack on the northern half of the Republic.

On the same day, the puppets drove approximately 30 armored vehicles in the frontline areas, and repeatedly mobilized them back and forth along the road from Chomwonri, Paju, which is under our eyes, to Paengnyon-ri. Thus, they ran amok with frenzy of northward invasion.

Moreover, the 105 mm artillery brigade of the puppet army, which was deployed in areas of Yangjari, Chonwon County, South Korean Kangwon Province; Chongjari, Paju, and Chongsari, Yonchon County, fired 200-odd rounds of artillery guns in the frontline area, thus seriously getting on our nerves.

The South Korean puppet clique has recently made public the so-called the five-stage 5027 operation, which is a northward war provocation plan. This plan, in addition to war provocation, includes the introduction of large-scale U.S. support troops into the Korean peninsula to advance them to the North by crossing the frontline. Thus, the plan would enable them to engage in massacre operation. With the beginning of this year, the South Korean puppet clique has been implementing the plan on a full scale, thus driving the situation into an unpredictable phase.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam is frantically running amok with northward aggressive war provocation in an attempt to find an exit from his political crisis and the crisis in his rule, which has resulted from the slush fund incident and from the anti-DPRK confrontation policy, in a northward war of invasion.

However, the traitor Kim Yong-sam's attempt to find a way for survival by provoking a northward war of invasion is indeed a wild fancy.

Today the might of our People's Army has been extraordinarily strengthened [pisanghi kanghai toetta] under the leadership of the respected and beloved supreme leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It is unanimous voice of military experts in the West that one should not recklessly provoke our nation, which has indomitable and ever-victorious Army led by the outstanding strategist and military commander.

Being in high spirits after the Gulf War, the bellicose U.S. military circles prepared a scenario on the Korean war and assigned its execution to Warmonger Powell, who makes boasts about himself in the military field. However, Powell, frightened by our military power, has confessed: It is a great mistake to regard war against North Korea as the same as the Vietnam War or Gulf War. In North Korea, the leader [chidoja] and the masses have attained firm singlehearted unity and the nation is being supported by strong military power and excellent leadership ability. What we must pay greatest attention to is the resolute decision of Supreme Commander Kim Chong-il and his versatile strategy and tactics. We must realize what a miserable result will follow if we again repeat the war that we erroneously started in the fifties by misjudging our rival.

Some bellicose quarters in the United States and the puppet Kim Yong-sam should be precisely aware of the will of our people and People's Army.

If the rascals dare foolishly attempt to damage [tachiryo hada] even a root of grass and a plant in our fatherland, they will be made to pay dearly for this.

The puppet traitor Kim Yong-sam should realize that there is a limit to our patience. He should not run wild recklessly.

DPRK: ROK Said Engaging in 'Reckless Arms Buildup'

SK2605081696 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0700 GMT 26 May 96

["Reckless Arms Buildup of Warmaniacs" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)* — The South Korean puppets are recently getting hell bent on arms buildup, clamouring about "foundation of a new flying corp" and "increase of naval forces", according to a report.

Such an arms buildup of the Kim Yong-sam group has become all the more grave as it is synchronizing

with a vicious military provocations for aggravating the situation on the Korean Peninsula. Now the South Korean puppets are kicking up a more belligerent hysteria than ever before, opening to the public the "fifth-stage '5027 operation," a plan for war against the North.

If the puppets continue resolutely to confrontation and war, turning their back on the North's repeated warnings, they will face a miserable ruin.

It is the determination and will of the Korean people and People's Army to answer fire with fire, stick with stick.

The South Korean puppets must clearly see the determination and will of the North.

DPRK: ROK To 'Pay Dearly' if Provocations Continue

SK2405143296 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1223 GMT 24 May 96

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "Premeditated Provocation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As has already been reported, the South Korean puppets perpetrated a grave military provocation of illegally infiltrating a group of combat vessels deep into the territorial waters of the West Sea on 23 May.

That day, the puppets infiltrated eight combat vessels, including a destroyer, patrol boats, and clippers, deep into the territorial waters east, west, and south of Tungsan-got, the Kangnyong Peninsula, South Hwanghae Province, to commit a hostile act against us.

Patrol boats of the Navy of our People's Army, which had been defending the sea of the socialist fatherland with vigilance, rushed to the scene on an emergency basis. Flustered at this, the bastards hastily fled southward.

The South Korean puppets' illegal infiltration of combat vessels deep into our territorial waters is a deliberate provocation to further aggravate North-South confrontation.

Even without this, the situation on the Korean Peninsula has been extremely tense. The bellicose Kim Yong-sam group, which has destroyed the Armistice Agreement and turned the DMZ along the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] into a fully armed area and a position for starting an attack, is perpetrating war exercises and military provocations against us one after another, while trying to find an opportunity to launch a war of northward aggression.

In recent days alone, the puppet clique almost daily perpetrated such provocative war exercises as a joint aerial war exercise designed to launch an abrupt, preemptive strike at targets in the northern half and the 96-Ssangyong and Hwarang war exercises. During these war exercises, it fired bullets and shells at random and reeked of gunpowder.

The extent to which the puppets have indulged in war frenzies can be proven by the fact that they made public the five-stage Operation Plan 5027, an operational plan for northward aggression. Because of the puppets' maneuvers to provoke a new war, a grave touch-and-go situation prevails on the Korean Peninsula. At this time, the South Korean puppets infiltrated a group of combat vessels deep into our territorial waters.

What we cannot overlook is the fact that the maritime infiltration was perpetrated right after warmongers, finding fault with us, held a war confab at a puppet Navy unit and perpetrated war commotions while prowling around from warship to warship and in operational areas. This proves that the bastards' maritime infiltration is a deliberate provocation that was premeditated and perpetrated to deliberately aggravate North-South confrontation and tension.

The bellicose Kim Yong-sam group, which is determined to ignite the fuse of a war of northward aggression at all costs, is trying to find an excuse to do so. The puppets' raving about someone else's aggression or provocation is a shameless act like a thief turning on his victim with a club.

The situation on the Korean Peninsula is headed to the brink of war. However, there is no security mechanism that can stop this development.

The Armistice Agreement, which should prevent war, has already been reduced to something that exists only in name. And, therefore, a dangerous situation prevails in which any small accident may lead to armed conflicts between the two sides and expand into a full-scale war.

The puppets' maritime infiltration this time did not develop into an armed conflict between the two sides entirely because of the high patience and self-restraint of the sailors of our People's Army.

The Kim Yong-sam ring must not miscalculate our patience and self-restraint. Fighting fire with fire and punishing provokers a hundred- or thousand-fold is the revolutionary trait of our people and People's Army.

The South Korean puppets must ponder the grave consequences which their reckless military provocations will bring and must not carry out rash and thoughtless actions. If the Kim Yong-sam ring habitually perpetrates

military provocations and continuously seeks confrontation and aggravates tensions despite our repeated warnings, the bastards will pay dearly.

DPRK: MINJU CHOSON on Naval Intrusion by ROK

SK2605083096 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0705 GMT 26 May 96

["Warmongers Should Not Act on Impulse" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)* — A group of warships of the South Korean puppet Army intruded into the territorial waters of the North on May 23. It was an unprecedented grave military provocation against the North and a deliberate and premeditated criminal act aimed at intentionally aggravating inter-Korean confrontation and tension.

MINJU CHOSON says this in a commentary today, and goes on:

The incident shows well how wild the puppets are running to provoke a new war against the North.

It was thanks to the patience and self-restraint of the seamen of the Korean People's Army that the incident did not lead to an armed conflict between the two sides.

The South Korean puppets must not act rashly, pondering over the grave consequences to be entailed by their reckless military provocation.

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN on ROK's Infiltration With Warships

SK2505042096 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0404 GMT 25 May 96

["NODONG SINMUN on S. Korean Warships' Intrusion Into North's Waters" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA)* — The South Korean warmongers illegally infiltrated eight warships of the puppet army deep into the North's western territorial waters early Thursday [23 May] morning. It was not a navigation error but a deliberate and premeditated provocation aimed at getting on the nerve of the North, rendering the inter-Korean confrontation and tension all the more acute and bringing the situation to the brink of war.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a commentary today.

The South Korean puppets' war moves to invade the North have become undisguised, the daily notes, and says:

The incident occurred a few days after brasshats of the puppet Navy showed up on the West Sea and cried for "coping with the North's provocations."

With the Kim Yong-sam group further intensifying confrontation and war moves against the North, war in Korea is not a matter of whether, but of when.

The situation shows that the recurrence of such military provocations cannot be prevented in the future unless the Armistice Agreement, which has been left without any real meaning, is replaced with a peace mechanism.

The Kim Yong-sam group of warmongers must ponder over the grave consequences to be entailed by their reckless military provocations.

DPRK: Over 40,000 ROK Students Demonstrate Against Labor Law

SK2505045696 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0415 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA)* — More than 40,000 students, who participated in an inaugural ceremony of the South Korean Federation of University Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) held at Chonbuk National University on Friday [24 May], held meetings in the campus and marched out of the university to stage a street demonstration, according to a radio report from South Korea.

The student demonstrators in Chonju city strongly demanded the repeal of the evil labour law.

Meanwhile, students under Hanchongnyon in Kusan area held a rally with members of dissident organizations, demanding the return of the U.S. military bases before marching up to a U.S. military base in Okso-myon, Kusan.

DPRK: ROK Students Urge U.S. To Apologize for Kwangju Massacre

SK2705041396 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0326 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Pyongyang, May 27 (KCNA)* — Over 5,000 students under the South Korean Federation of University Student Councils staged a strong demonstration in Seoul Sunday [26 May] urging the United States to make an open apology for having wire-pulled the May 18 Kwangju massacre, a radio report from South Korea said.

After holding a rally in the democracy plaza of Yonsei University the students marched towards the U.S. Embassy, breaking through blockade by police.

Frightened at the march the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique deployed ten companies of riot police, 1,500

strong, around major establishments including the U.S. Embassy, and walked away 216 students participating in the demonstration.

DPRK: Kwangju 'Murderers,' U.S. Condemned at Tokyo Rally

*SK2705114996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0942 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 24 (KNS-KCNA) — The Federation of South Koreans in Japan for Democracy and Unification, the South Korean Youth League in Japan and other organisations of Koreans in Japan recently held a rally in Tokyo and condemned the murderers of Kwangju citizens and the United States.

The rally adopted a resolution demanding punishment of all those responsible for the Kwangju massacre, open apology from the United States, conclusion of a peace agreement, release of all the political prisoners including those affiliated with the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification, abolition of the "National Security Law" and so on.

Before the rally the South Korean Youth League in Japan and the South Korean Student Council in Japan for the reunification of the country jointly held a rally of youth and students for the resignation of the traitor Kim Yong-sam and the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea.

DPRK: KCNA Reports on Pomchonghangnyon Rally at ROK University

*SK2805084496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0753 GMT 28 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 28 (KCNA) — A rally was held at Chonbug National University in South Korea on May 24 to make public a declaration of youth and students in the North, South and overseas for peace and great national unity, according to a report.

The rally was followed by the fourth-term inaugural ceremony of the South Korean Federation of University Student Councils which was attended by about 40,000 students from some 200 universities and colleges in South Korea.

The rally heard political speeches of the North side, overseas and South side headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon).

Political speeches said that youth and students in the North, South and overseas should smash the new war provocation moves of the United States and the South Korean authorities and tide over the war crisis facing the nation.

They called for realising with the might of Pomchonghangnyon the release of delegates Chong Min-chu and Yi Hye-chong who demonstrated the will of youth and students at home and abroad for reunification and for uprooting the "National Security Law," an anachronistic, anti-democratic and anti-reunification law.

They laid stress on activating the anti-U.S., anti-Kim Yong-sam struggle.

They called upon the youth and students in the North, South and overseas to vigorously advance toward reunification through confederacy.

The rally adopted a declaration of youth and students in the North, South and overseas.

The declaration called for putting an end to the history of division and promoting co-existence, co-prosperity and co-interest of the nation based on patriotism and spirit of national independence so as to found a unified state of the nation by confederal formula transcending differences in ideology, ideal and system.

The declaration laid emphasis on realising the opening in Seoul of an August 15 joint meeting of youth and students and the first general meeting of Pomchonghangnyon to take the lead in arranging a gathering for peace and great national unity.

DPRK: KCNA Calls U.S. Representative 'Political Mountebank'

*SK2705043596 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0423 GMT 27 May 96*

["Political Mountebank's Fate Cannot Be Otherwise" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 27 (KCNA) — Kim Chang-chun, a member of the House of Representatives of the United States, will stand trial for a bribe he received from the South Korean puppets for the 1992 parliamentary elections, THE WASHINGTON POST May 18 said.

He is a political mountebank who has been active as a mouthpiece of the South Korean puppets at the Congress, bribed by them.

Helped by the money he received from the South Korean puppets, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives. Since then, he has persistently slandered the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the Congress according to the puppets' scenario, to repay their help.

In March last he, patronized by them, accused the U.S. Administration of easing restrictions on food supply to the DPRK in a lower House hearing.

It is apparently under the baton of the South Korean puppets that he has taken issue with a shift in the U.S. policy towards the DPRK.

The South Korean puppets, ironically enough, have been trying to impede the improvement of bilateral relations between the DPRK and the United States by making use of such a political mountebank as Kim Chang-chun.

The U.S. media have said the scandal reminds the people of the "Koreagate" scandal, a South Korean intelligence body's bribery for U.S. politicians in the 1970s.

It is due to the South Korean puppets and such political mountebanks as Kim Chang-chun that American-Koreans stand condemned as the "very one who spoils the climate of election in America."

The South Korean puppets and Kim Chang-chun cannot be tolerated for their crimes against the nation and the Korean community in the United States.

It brings a shame to the U.S. Congress that such a fellow as him is active as a lawmaker. And it is ridiculous that he has found fault with the U.S. policy towards the DPRK.

The fate of the political charlatan cannot be otherwise.

DPRK: Daily on Hanchongnyon's Call for DPRK-U.S. Agreement

SK2805051596 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0424 GMT 28 May 96

["Just Demand Reflecting Fellow Countrymen's Desire" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Pyongyang, May 28 (KCNA)* — The 4th-term inaugural ceremony for the South Korean Federation of University Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), held some time ago, made public a declaration, calling for the struggle for signing the DPRK-U.S. peace agreement, opening grand national reunification march and realizing national reunification through confederacy. The declaration, which mirrors the desire of all the Korean people for peace and peaceful reunification of the country, represents the steadfast will of the South Korean students to take the lead in the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification, stresses NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today, saying:

The call of Hanchongnyon for signing of peace agreement between the DPRK and U.S. is really a righteous and just one reflecting the grave situation of the Korean peninsula which is being hourly led to the brink of war.

Its propositions to open grand national reunification march and realize reunification through confederacy are

so justifiable as they mirror the desire of the whole nation for peaceful reunification.

The South Korean students and people from all walks of life are actively supporting and approving the proposal for reunification through confederacy, the best method for realizing peaceful reunification at the earliest date, without the interests of the North and the South being encroached upon under the practical condition of Korea in which different ideologies and systems exist in the two parts.

The South Korean students, as clarified in the current declaration of Hanchongnyon, will carry on the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification more valiantly.

DPRK: Kim Yong-sam Said Responsible for Disasters in ROK

SK2705115196 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0956 GMT 27 May 96

["Who Is Responsible for Calamities in S. Korea?" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Pyongyang, May 27 (KCNA)* — If the South Korean people are to be free from all manner of social evils and calamities by explosives, they should punish the traitor Kim Yong-sam, responsible for them, as early as possible, says NODONG SINMUN today.

On May 21 and 24 mines exploded on hills, leaving herb-picking people dead. On the 16th, an innocent inhabitant was shot to death by a puppet army soldier when he fired a machinegun during a military drill.

Meanwhile, a forest fire broke out in Kosong County, South Korean Kangwon Province, in April. It went unquenched for three days, burning sixteen villages and more than 3,000 hectares of forest.

Such a forest fire was also reported from Tongduchon, Kyonggi Province, where U.S. troops are stationed, during a military exercise. Immeasurable calamities in South Korea by mines, hand grenades, shells and other explosives are blamed on the Kim Yong-sam group, who are hell-bent on military manoeuvres against the North, clean indifferent to the lives of the people.

They have clubbed to death and blinded students by firing teargas in peaceful demonstrations. They are, indeed, a group of murderers who can never be tolerated.

Calamities can be prevented only when their root cause is uprooted.

DPRK: Kim Yong-sam's Remarks on Election Called 'Shameless'

*SK2805081496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0759 GMT 28 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 28 (KCNA) — Some time ago, the traitor Kim Yong-sam prattled that the "New Korea Party" won in the puppet parliamentary election held in April, according to a report.

This is a shameless and ridiculous remark.

Even according to an official announcement published by the puppets, the "New Korea Party" got 139 out of 299 parliamentary seats in the "election". This meant that they failed to secure 150 seats, a majority of the "National Assembly", which they targeted.

The "election" clearly shows that an overwhelming majority of the South Korean people are opposed to the ruling party and demand the resignation of the traitor Kim Yong-sam.

DPRK: Pomminnyon Denounces ROK for Prison Terms of South Members

*SK2505043996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0351 GMT 25 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA) — The secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland released information No. 713 on May 24 denouncing the Kim Yong-sam group for sentencing prison terms to the nine members of the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), including its Chairman Kang Hui-nam, on the charge of violating the "National Security Law [NSL]."

The information brands the fascist suppression as an anti-national crime that can be committed only by a herd of arch traitors who are trying to find a way out in anti-DPRK confrontation racket and fascistisation, flying in the face of the nation desirous of peaceful reunification.

Far from lending an ear to the just voices of the fellow countrymen, the Kim Yong-sam group persecuted the Pomminnyon South side headquarters members on the strength of the notorious "NSL", the information says, adding that this vividly proves that they are a herd of gangsters who have no obligation as a human being nor will for reunification, but seek only division.

DPRK: ROK Opposition Parties Hold Anti-NKP Rallies

*SK2505095496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0738 GMT 25 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA) — The Democratic Party, the "National Congress for New Politics", the "United Liberal Democrats", opposition parties of South Korea, held rallies against the Kim Yong-sam-led ruling party on May 22 at which they declared its holding of a majority in the "National Assembly" null and void, a Seoul-based radio said.

The Democratic Party described the efforts of the "New Korea Party" to win independent and opposition lawmakers-elect as an act to deceive the people and a challenge to the judgement by the people.

The opposition parties brought the Kim Yong-sam group's act to the court to judgement by "constitution" for nullifying it and decided to hold a joint rally against the ruling party in Seoul on May 26.

DPRK: Defector Shot Dead at Border With Russia Last Dec

*OW2705132496 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 0904 GMT 27 May 96*

[Announcer-read report; from the "NHK News" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is revealed that North Korean men were arrested at Vladivostok airport when they tried to leave Russia with forged South Korean passports. However, one of them was shot dead by the North Korean side immediately after he was handed over to the DPRK side at the Russia-DPRK border. Yevgeniy Nazdrachenko, governor of Maritime Kray, told a news conference that last December, three men were arrested at Vladivostok airport on suspicion of trying to leave for Seoul with forged South Korean passports. As the result of investigation, it was found that they were North Korean nationals, and Russia decided to turn them over to the DPRK side at the border with North Korea. However, when the first of the three was turned over to the DPRK, North Korean officials shot him dead on the spot in the presence of Russian border troops. Therefore, the Russian side decided not to turn over the remaining two suspects to the DPRK on humanitarian grounds, and brought them back to a Vladivostok prison. The Russian authorities have refrained from disclosing why they had tried to leave for South Korea, and how Russia has treated the remaining two afterward.

DPRK: Renunciation of Armistice Agreement Explained

SK2705143896 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
0752 GMT 27 May 96

[Unattributed talk: "Just Self-Defense Measure To Defend the Peace and Security of the Nation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As is known, the Korean People's Army [KPA] has solemnly declared that it renounces its mission assigned by the Armistice Agreement concerning maintenance and management of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] and the DMZ in order to cope with the strained touch-and-go situation created on the Korean Peninsula. The KPA has also taken follow-up steps.

This is a just self-defense measure prompted by the situation in which the position of the MDL and DMZ can no longer be maintained.

The responsibility for making our armed forces take such measures rests totally on the United States and the South Korean puppets who reduced the situation within the DMZ into a lawless world [mubop chonji] by violently trampling underfoot the Armistice Agreement.

The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The question which should be resolved at an early date for expediting national reunification is the ensuring of peace on the Korean Peninsula and the provision of peaceful conditions for national reunification.

Our party and government of the republic have made all possible efforts to turn the armistice on the Korean Peninsula into a durable peace. We have put forward reasonable proposals for preventing war on the Korean Peninsula, including the issue of turning the DMZ into a peace zone and a buffer zone, and have consistently and patiently made efforts to achieve them. This is a fact well-known to the entire world.

However, the South Korean puppets have frantically opposed our proposals under the support of the U.S. imperialists, their masters. Ignoring the demand of the Armistice Agreement for prohibiting introduction of heavy weapons and automatic weapons into the DMZ, they brought on large-scale tanks, artillery guns of various calibers, and heavy weapons into all areas of the South side in the DMZ. They also brought numerous armed troops and deployed them there. Furthermore, they went so far as to openly build military facilities even at a point only 100 meters away from the MDL.

Today the South side area at the DMZ in the MDL, which was established according to the Armistice Agreement, has lost its unique significance as a buffer

zone, and has been turned into an armed area and an attack starting point for northward invasion.

It is clear to everyone that under this reality, we cannot remain onlookers to the situation with folded arms and can no longer unilaterally abide by the regulations concerning the MDL and DMZ specified in the Armistice Agreement.

There is a limit to our self-control and patience. Our armed forces assume it to be their sacred mission to defend with arms popular mass-centered socialism of our own style and to safeguard the security of the fatherland and the nation with their lives. This is a just and fair execution of our rights, which no one can quarrel with, to take self-defensive steps in order to prevent the occurrence of war and defend peace and security.

Nevertheless, the South Korean puppets and some dishonest forces have intentionally distorted the essential aspects of the prevailing situation by describing our self-defense measure as a political provocation to pursue certain purposes and as a strategy of diplomatic pressure against someone else. Thus, they are foolishly attempting to make the provokers the defenders of peace and the victims the destroyers of peace.

In fact, because of northward aggressive war commotions constantly perpetrated by the United States and the South Korean puppets in South Korea, the situation has been driven to the sort of dangerous limit which can be seen only on the eve of war, and the DMZ on the South side of the MDL has been turned into a complete armed zone for northward invasion and a complete attack starting point for northward invasion. Thus, the danger of war has become more real.

Our self-defense measure to defend the nation's peace and protect the supreme interests [choego iik] proceeds from this very urgent situation.

Despite this truth, the Kim Yong-sam ring and the bellicose U.S. rightist conservative circles have misled public opinion, as if we broke the Armistice Agreement to accomplish certain goals, such as signing a tentative agreement with the United States. This is plain robbery like a thief turning to the master with a club. This is a trick to conceal and justify their crime of attempting to provoke a war of northward aggression.

Originally, the Armistice Agreement was signed with a view to ending the war, guaranteeing peace, and peacefully resolving the Korean issue. However, for the past 40-odd years the United States and the South Korean puppets have violated two-thirds of the contents of the Armistice Agreement. Now the armistice system can

neither be restored nor recovered, making no contribution to guaranteeing peace on the Korean Peninsula. The only thing left is to replace it with a new system.

Under the condition in which a large number of armed forces of two hostile sides tensely stand face-to-face across the Military Demarcation Line, the current vacuum that lacks an institutional device to maintain peace and control security cannot prevent even the slightest accident, and the accident may easily flare into an all-out armed conflict.

To prevent the development of such a grave situation, our Republic Government has proposed the establishment of a new peace mechanism between the DPRK and the United States, and has repeatedly made official declarations on its willingness to observe the Armistice Agreement until the proposal is realized. On 22 February, as one of the ways to show our efforts, we even made a significant proposal to replace the incapacitated Armistice Agreement with a tentative agreement.

However, due to the unfair maneuver of the enemies, our sincere and earnest efforts were not realized. No smear scheme can free the U.S. military circles and South Korean bellicose elements from their responsibility for the crime of breaking and infringing on the Armistice Agreement, and of leading the situation to the brink of war.

Today the situation requires a sense of responsibility. At this point, the United States, which is the actual party to the Armistice Agreement and directly responsible for guaranteeing peace on the Korean Peninsula, should make a coolheaded assessment of the trend of the development of the situation, look squarely at the problem, and act with discretion.

If the South Korean puppets and some insidious forces continue to lose their reason and run amok without discretion, they will be responsible for the high price of irrevocable disaster.

DPRK: Russian State Duma Delegation Arrives

*SK2705014696 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
0100 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon the invitation of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly (SPA), the delegation of the State Duma of the Russian Federation led by Gennadiy Seleznev, chairman of the State Duma, arrived in Pyongyang by plane on 26 May. Flags of the DPRK and Russian Federation were hoisted at the airport.

SPA Chairman Yang Hyong-sop; Yi Mong-ho, secretary of the Standing Committee of the SPA; Kim Yong-

ho, vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA; Yi Tong-chol, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA and chairman of the DPRK-Russia Friendship Parliamentary Group; and Yuriy Fadeyev, Russian Federation ambassador to the DPRK, welcomed the delegation at the airport.

A child gave a floral bouquet to His Excellency Chairman.

DPRK: KCNA Reports Russian State Duma Delegation's Arrival

*SK2705040696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0324 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 27 (KCNA) — A delegation of the State Duma of the Russian Federation led by Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev arrived here on Sunday [26 May] to visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the invitation of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA).

It was met at the airport by SPA Chairman Yang Hyong-sop, Secretary-general of the SPA Standing Committee Yi Mong-ho, Vice-chairman of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee Kim Yong-ho, Chairman of the Korea-Russia Friendship Parliamentary Group Yi Tong-chol, who is member of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee, and Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev.

DPRK: Visiting Russian Duma Delegation Honors Kim Il-song

*SK2705103096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1001 GMT 27 May 96*

["Floral Basket Laid Before President Kim Il-song's Statue" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 27 (KCNA) — A delegation of the State Duma of the Russian Federation led by Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev laid a floral basket before the Great Leader President Kim Il-song's statue on Mansu Hill on May 27.

Accompanying the delegation were Chairman Yang Hyong-sop of the Supreme People's Assembly, Secretary General Yi Mong-ho of the SPA Standing Committee, member Yi Tong-chol of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee who is chairman of the Korea-Russia Friendship Parliamentary Group and Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev.

The members of the delegation laid a floral basket in the name of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and made a bow.

DPRK: 'Senior Officials' Meet Russian Duma Delegation

SK2705110596 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1058 GMT 27 May 96

["DPRK Senior Officials meet Russian State Duma Delegation" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 27 (KCNA) — Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, met and had a friendly talk with a delegation of the State Duma of the Russian Federation led by its Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today, when the latter paid a courtesy call on him.

Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Hwang Chang-yop respectively met and had a friendly talk with the Russian delegation.

DPRK: Yang Hyong-sop Holds Talks With Russian Duma Speaker

SK2705110996 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1100 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 27 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held talks with a delegation of the Russian State Duma at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present at the talks on the Korean side were Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the SPA, and other officials concerned and on the opposite side were the members of the delegation led by its Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev and Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev.

At the talks, the sides exchanged views on the development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, the two parliaments and the two peoples and a series of matters of common concern.

DPRK: Yang Hyong-sop Holds Talks With Russian Duma Delegation

SK2805005096 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
1300 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 27 May, a delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK held talks with a delegation of the State Duma of the Russian Federation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Present at the talks on our side were SPA Chairman Yang Hyong-sop; Yi Mong-ho, secretary of the SPA Standing Committee; Kim Yong-ho, vice chairman of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee; Han Yong-su, vice chairman of the SPA Reunification Policy Committee;

Pak Tae-ho, member of the SPA Reunification Policy Committee; Yi Tong-chol, member of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee and chairman of the DPRK-Russian Friendship Parliamentary Group; and other functionaries concerned.

On the Russian side, members of the delegation led by His Excellency Gennadiy Seleznev, speaker of the State Duma; and Russian ambassador to Russia Yuriy Fadeyev were present.

In the talks, the two sides exchanges views on the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, the two parliaments, and the two peoples; and a series of matters of mutual concern.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

DPRK: Yang Hyong-sop Attends Party for Russian Duma Delegation

SK2805050996 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0411 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 28 (KCNA) — The standing committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] gave a party for the visiting delegation of the Russian State Duma at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on May 27.

Invited to the party were members of the delegation led by Speaker of the State Duma Gennadiy Seleznev and Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev.

Addressing the party, Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the SPA, said the speaker's current visit to Korea, following his visit last year, vividly represents his fraternity towards the Korean people and shows that he sets store by the development of friendly relations between the two countries and two parliaments.

"We are convinced that the speaker's Korea visit will mark an important occasion in developing the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and two parliaments," he noted.

Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev said in his speech that he is sure of the establishment of a new tradition between Russia and Korea. "Your country is firmly united around its leadership with its own faith," he said, adding:

"I am well aware of the activities of Comrade Kim Il-sung and Comrade Kim Chong-il."

"I think that contacts between the two parliaments and those in various sectors will further strengthen in the future, too."

DPRK: Yang Hyong-sop Greet Italian Parliament Heads

*SK2705040996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0319 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 27 (KCNA) — Chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop sent messages of greetings to Nicola Mancino and Luciano Violante upon their election as presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of Italy.

The messages expressed the belief that relations between the two parliaments would develop on good terms.

DPRK: Yi Chong-ok Meets Red Cross, Red Crescent Delegation

*SK2705102196 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0958 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 27 (KCNA) — Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies led by its General Secretary George Brian Weber at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present there were Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, and officials concerned.

DPRK: Chongnyon Sends Greetings, Thanks to Kim Chong-il

*SK2305130296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0834 GMT 23 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 23 (KCNA) — The Great Leader Marshal Kim Chong-il received a letter and telegram from Korean Residents in Japan.

A letter from the participants in the 38th graduation ceremony of Korean University under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) extended warm thanks to Marshal Kim Chong-il who sent educational aid fund and stipends for the development of national education and showed warm loving care to train the Korean students in Japan into successors to the patriotic cause of Chongnyon.

The letter expressed a determination to firmly build up the university into a training centre of native cadres to train the students better into reliable successors to the patriotic cause and native cadres and take an active part in the nationwide struggle for realising the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation advanced by the Great Leader President Kim Il-song

and thus positively contribute to accelerating the cause of national reunification.

A telegram from the participants in an inaugural meeting of the Sizuoka Prefectural Federation of Young Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan said that young compatriots would carry on their role as masters in the national patriotic movement for defending national rights of the Korean Residents in Japan, strengthening and developing the socialist homeland and achieving national reunification and live up to the love and trust of Marshal Kim Chong-il with loyalty.

The letter and telegram wished him good health and a long life.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Officials, Working People

*SK2705035396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0318 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 27 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to leading officials and employees of the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex, officials and employees of the Chae Ho-sok enterprise and Taedonggang District general restaurant in Pyongyang and many other officials and working people who set examples in assisting the People's Army.

A large number of people are assisting the People's Army with sincerity, which is prevailing in Korean society.

This year numerous units and officials and workers were thanked by Comrade Kim Chong-il for sincerely assisting the People's Army well.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Letters, Messages From Foreigners

*SK2405041996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0324 GMT 24 May 96*

[All names of foreign party leaders as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 24 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a letter from the participants in a national seminar of Guinea on the chuche idea organized by the African Regional Committee for the Study of the Chuche Idea on the 84th birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The letter said that the participants in the seminar praised the immortal exploits of President Kim Il-song and expressed deep respect for him and hoped that the whole world would remember forever the immortal

feats performed by him for independence, peace and international security.

Highly praising the immortal exploits of His Excellency Kim Chong-il, they stressed that the cause of the Korean people is invincible under his wise leadership and expressed their determination to extensively propagandize the cause of Korean revolution and act in the spirit of chuche philosophy, its guideline, the letter noted.

The letter wholeheartedly wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

He also received solidarity messages from Abdallah al Shahal, secretary of the Lebanese Regional Leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party, and Milud al Mahdabi, general secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the Organization of Socialists in the Mediterranean supporting the Korean people in their struggle to remove the tense military situation on the Korean peninsula and a solidarity letter from S. Aman, general secretary of the United National Congress of Trinidad and Tobago, supporting the proposal of the DPRK Government for a tentative agreement to establish a new peace mechanism.

DPRK: Food Shortage Could Drive Leaders to Negotiating Table

MS2705085296 London *INDEPENDENT* in English
27 May 96 p 11

[Report by Teresa Poole: "Floods Deepen Misery of Last Stalinists"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing — During the Korean War, hungry North Koreans used to forage for Chok, a deep root which could be dried and cut up for food. Nearly half a century later, United Nations aid officials, who have been operating out of Pyongyang, say some North Koreans are once again relying on roots and wild grasses to stave off hunger. Taeli, an edible grass, is gathered by work teams, and Wat, another wild plant, is used for salad, medicine, and soup, said Trevo Page, who last week finished six months heading the UN World Food Programme's (WFP) office in Pyongyang. "They mix the wild foods with whatever rice and maize they do get," he explained.

Earlier this month, the WFP put out a "special alert" that the food situation in North Korea was becoming critical following recent cuts in official grain rations. Mr Page described the scene in parts of the countryside: "We saw groups of 100 or so people foraging in the middle of nowhere. It was an organised work unit, going out on a Sunday ... On top of that, in every town, groups of 20 to 100 people, mainly women, stand around with little things for sale like cigarettes, matches, ballpoint pens,

notebooks, scarves and beancakes." Illegal trading like this is one of the few ways to raise money to buy food sold unofficially by farmers.

Much uncertainty, and some scepticism, remains in the international community about the extent of the food shortages in the world's most secretive country. Aid agencies are not, for instance provided with details of North Korea's national food stocks, or the army's supplies. But they have been given access to rural areas normally out of bounds to Western visitors.

Mr Page said: "The food shortages are really severe and widespread." Other relief officials echoed his view. "The situation is deteriorating and that is very obvious because the lean period is from now up to the next harvest, which is October," said Kathi Zellweger, of Caritas Hong Kong.

North Korea's shrinking economy was further hit by floods last summer which have left 100,000 people still homeless and 40,000 hectares of farmland unusable. So how is the population of the world's last Stalinist regime reacting to the threat of starvation? "There is a very definite anxiety among people. They are not getting enough of the basics," Mr Page said.

Official food rations have virtually halved since December, and some people are receiving as little as 250g a day. A couple of times, WFP food aid trucks were mistakenly directed to the wrong destinations and local villagers were aghast when the vehicles turned around to leave without unloading. "They were haranguing and harassing the [North Korean] officials," said Mr Page. But he stressed that he had not heard of any breakdown in public order. "We have not seen any food riots or heard of any. Dissatisfaction with the government? No, you just do not hear that.... They believe in their system and want to preserve it."

The next few months could be critical; North Korea has no money to import food commercially, and foreign aid has tapered off. "We are trying to prevent a catastrophe occurring," Mr Page said.

According to him, hillside trees have been cut down and bartered with Chinese companies for food. WFP estimates that 150,000 tonnes of food a year is coming in across the Chinese border in exchange for timber, scrap metal, mineral water, shellfish, human hair and rabbit skins. Factories, most of which have stopped working because of fuel shortages, are being stripped for scrap metal which can be bartered, he said.

Reliable information about the true food situation in North Korea is crucial, not only to decisions about humanitarian aid but also to United States attempts to force Pyongyang to the negotiating table.

President Bill Clinton last month proposed four-party talks between the US, China and the two Koreas to seek a permanent peace on the peninsula. Yesterday, the US congressman Bill Richardson arrived in Pyongyang to see if he could persuade North Korean leaders to support the initiative. While the US awaits a response, its food aid to North Korea is in effect on hold. The debate among analysts is whether looming famine will force North Korea to negotiate or whether it could perhaps prompt the Stalinist country to attack South Korea in a last desperate showdown. At a meeting earlier this month, the US, South Korea, and Japan held out the carrot of significant economic aid, if Pyongyang agreed to the talks.

The unpredictability of the situation was demonstrated last Thursday when North Korean ships briefly encroached into South Korean waters, and a North Korean Air Force pilot made a daring defection to Seoul. It was the first defection of a pilot since 1983, and a big intelligence coup.

Meanwhile, the South Korean public was amazed as the state of the pilot's underwear and what that suggested about North Korea's economic woes. He did not have proper socks and was wearing jogging trousers under his flight suit to keep warm at high altitudes.

DPRK: Radio Lauds Kim Chong-il's Leadership

*SK2705000396 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
2245 GMT 23 May 96*

[Unattributed talk: "The Great Leader (yongdoja), Comrade Kim Chong-il Is the Greatest General of the World, Who Possesses Extraordinary Military Sagacity, Incomparable Gallantry, and an Iron Will"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Upholding the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il at the top of our party, state, and revolutionary armed forces and vigorously advancing toward a single road of victory under his wise leadership, is the biggest honor and bliss of our people and the Korea People's Army [KPA].

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great general of great generals who possesses extraordinary military sagacity, unchallenged gallantry, and an iron will. The most crucial thing in great General Kim Chong-il's extraordinary military sagacity is that he elucidated ingenious military ideas and theories, having an outstanding caliber of thought and a unique caliber of study.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, the respected and beloved supreme commander, has formulated the great leader's [suryong] independent military ideas with his energetic

ideological and theoretical activities; totally systemized their contents and structures; and elucidated the general direction and goal of the construction of our revolutionary armed forces.

This has provided ideological, theoretical, and methodological weapons with which the working class revolutionary party will be able to gloriously complete the cause of constructing the military. And, it has also revealed the general goal of the construction of the working class revolutionary armed forces and the perfect appearance of the revolutionary armed forces and provided basic measures to build revolutionary armed forces.

The respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il enables us to gloriously complete the cause of building the military without any trivial deviation, foreseeing not only the immediate matters in military work and military activities but future events and drawing up the most appropriate countermeasures.

The respected and beloved supreme commander, a military prodigy, finds fundamental and meaningful issues even in simple and common things; reaches new and creative conclusions; has a clear-cut understanding of any intricate military phenomenon or a swiftly changing military and political situation and instantly finds out the truth; correctly sees through the enemy's insidious intention right away with an outstanding capability for analysis and judgment; and mounts countermeasures on his own initiative.

As a result, our People's Army defeats the enemy's attempt every step of the way and reliably protects the safety of the fatherland fearlessly with a firm confidence, even when the enemy pounces upon us, mobilizing mass military forces. The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il also drives the enemy into a corner with his strategy of adapting to changing circumstances.

A great general leading an army must have a brilliant strategy. Our general possesses a marvelous strategy that no other military man in the world has had. Even when tens of millions of enemy troops attack, he instantly drives them into a corner, knocks them down, and obtains capitulation by employing diverse mysterious strategies.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, the respected and beloved supreme commander, is the greatest general under the sky, who has incomparable bravery and an iron will along with an extraordinary military foresight.

The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Comrade Kim Chong-il has an indefatigable volition, gallantry, excellent strategy and alchemy befitting the supreme commander of the revolutionary forces. This

is a guarantee for our revolutionary forces' endless reinforcement and development and their invincibility.

Peerless grit and a iron will are crucial traits a military leader must possess. Comrade Kim Chong-il, our respected and beloved supreme commander, nourished the intrepidity and courage of a military leader since his childhood when he grew up in the Paektu secret camp; had the faith and strong spirit of a great general amid the sound of firearms of the anti-Japanese war and severe fierce flame of the Fatherland Liberation War; and inherited the matchless grit and iron will from the great leader [suryong] next to a table for mapping out plans of operations at the Supreme Command.

To top it all, the respected and beloved general is a great commander of the present times who has incomparable gallantry and volition, which makes him unflinching even in front of tens of millions of enemy troops and unwavering against any thunderstorm and acting with aplomb.

The U.S. imperialists have intimidated us every year, massively mobilizing forces, nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, and nuclear weapons and military equipment of various types sufficient enough to execute a full-scale war in South Korea and incessantly conducting large-scale nuclear war exercises for northward aggression.

In particular, in recent years, the U.S. imperialists and international reactionaries viciously waged political and military offensives to isolate and crush our country, the fortress of socialism, by picking on us with the nonexistent nuclear development program.

But, Comrade Kim Chong-il, the respected and beloved supreme commander, who is an invincible and iron-willed great general, believed that the enemy's hare-brained nuclear war exercise commotions against us and intimidation maneuvers against us merely showed the pathetic looks and weakness of those who were driven into a corner, not their strength. And, he mounted a self-defensive measure to resolutely confront retaliations with retaliations and war with war and, thus, displayed the socialist Korea's steadfast and heroic spirits all over the world and frustrated the enemy's spirits.

The fact that he led us in defeating the insolent enemy's antisocialist and anti-Republic maneuvers every step of the way and protect the socialist Korea like an iron-clad bastion, is truly the historical feat and special event in world history, which the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il accomplished in front of the fatherland, people, and mankind.

No matter how urgent a military situation may be, our general makes a stern decision with aplomb and turns an adverse condition into an favorable one, and no matter

how many enemy troops may swarm, he sees through the enemy's moves, mounts bold countermeasures, and deal merciless blows. This gallantry and will are matchless infinite bravery and volition.

This is the source of might which makes our people and People's Army invincible, and the secret which hamstring the enemy regardless of its strength.

Only constant glorious victory and honor are ahead of our people and the People's Army soldiers who are advancing toward a single road of chuche-oriented socialism, upholding the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il at the forefront of our party and revolution and following his sophisticated and mature leadership.

South Korea

ROK: Dailies Comment on MIG Defection, DPRK Naval Intrusion

SK2405124296

[FBIS Report] The following is a compilation of editorials published on 24 May commenting on the defection of a North Korean MiG-19 fighter and an incursion by North Korean patrol boats into South Korean waters in the West Sea.

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO on page 6 carries a 700-word editorial titled "North Korea's Provocation and Our Stance Against Such a Move." The editorial starts off by writing that the two incidents convey an important message that we should "always be thoroughly prepared against North Korea's possible provocations." Noting that North Korea's violation of the Northern Limit Line [NLL] was yet another "planned move" to cripple the Armistice Agreement, the editorial predicts border violations will continue "in various forms" to heighten military tensions on the Korean Peninsula. The editorial writes that, under such a situation, "The most effective way to deal with North Korea's provocations is to make North Korea realize that their provocations are useless," instead of showing a "tit-for-tat" response. For this, the editorial continues, the policy toward the North should be "based on public consent" and be "decisive and consistent," and then urges both ruling and opposition parties to "refrain from using North Korea's provocations politically."

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN on page 3 carries a 900-word editorial titled "We Should Look Out for the Possibility That North Korean Provocations Will Intensify." Playing up the significance of the North Korean Air Force pilot's defection because of its timing, the editorial concludes that his defection is "a sign that cracks are appearing and unrest is growing within the

North Korean military." The editorial predicts that the North Korean military, which is sure to be in "an awkward stance", will further intensify provocations against the ROK in the aftermath of the MiG-19 fighter's defection. The editorial then foresees that North Korea will continue to pursue the double measure of actively promoting talks with the United States while shifting the blame on the ROK for aggravating the situation on the Korean Peninsula. Writing that North Korea is now met with a serious crisis resulting from serious food shortages and the North Korean military's unrest, the editorial urges the ROK to be "fully prepared to cope with both North Korea's challenge and dialogue" and to "look out for North Korea with a resolute attitude" in relation to North Korea's two conflicting movements — the MiG fighter's defection and the infiltration of patrol boats.

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial titled "Defection of the MiG fighter and Provocations on the Sea." The editorial first points out that North Korea's violation of the NLL was a "carefully calculated military operation," rather than an accidental incident. The editorial analyzes that North Korea committed the violation with a view to stressing the urgent need to set up a durable peace agreement and to display the might of the North Korean Army. The editorial continues that North Korea's maritime violation is also aimed at enforcing control on its people on the threshold of the holding of the four-way talks and its economic opening-up. The editorial calls for the military's unslackening vigilance to cope with North Korea's internal chaos and deliberate provocations. Warning North Korea that there is "nothing to gain from playing with fire," the editorial urges the ROK to "strengthen its cooperative system with the United States and Japan."

The above three editorials, reacting to the failure of an air-raid warning siren in Seoul when a North Korean fighter piloted by a defector flew into South Korean airspace, unanimously express shock over this incident and urge the government to take stern punitive action against those responsible for it.

ROK: Editorial Criticizes Air Raid Warning System
 SK2503063896 (Internet) The Digital Chosun Ilbo
 WWW in English 1146 GMT 24 May 96

[Editorial: "A Hole in the Air Raid Warning System"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As a North Korean MiG fighter entered into South Korean air space, the citizens of the Seoul Metropolitan Area simply carried on with their everyday lives, unaware that anything was amiss, because the air raid warning sirens never went off. One

has to consider how enormous the consequences would have been, should the air raid have turned out to be real, and not just a defection, however.

The problem finds its source in the negligence, idleness, and indolence of government officials. In this case, for example, officials in charge of the warning system at the time of the defection, found out about the MiG fighter's appearance through a call from the central office, received at 11:10, a full 10 minutes after the plane had landed at Suwon Air Base. It is unconceivable that such a breakdown of the system like this could happen when civilian air drills are carried out periodically without a glitch. In addition, the problem can hardly be attributed to a lack of funding or inadequate facilities, as there are countless number of dollars invested into the automated system. Rather, government indolence is at the root of the problem, which renders Seoul a defenseless city.

Investigations revealed that in fact, the automatic warning system has been cut off since March of 1995, to prevent the confusion caused by false alarms. Without an efficient operations staff, however, this effectively means we have been defenseless since then. In spite of the almost one-million soldiers lined up along the 155 mile-long DMZ, armed with high-tech weapons, any plane within reasonable distance can invade Seoul within a matter of minutes. How is it possible that the very government officials who are charged with the responsibility for the lives and assets of the people, are the very ones who betray them?

This kind of incident is merely a reflection of an peculiarity of Korean society. Many disregard the existence of an enemy in the North, maintaining that we are brothers of the same blood, the same nation. Should another point out that the north actually does pose a threat, they are gagged and condemned as a conservative, a reactionary, or one who is trying to interfere with reunification. Brought up in this kind of an environment, many of our people live under the illusion that the security of our country is innate.

Perhaps, then, it is too much to expect that the warning system in Seoul can operate perfectly. At the very least, however, the government should severely punish those who are directly responsible for the incident, as well as higher-ups who should take the blame. It is ironic that the very person who should take responsibility is getting away with simple apologies, saying, "I'm sorry. I will investigate and severely punish those found at fault," passing the blame along to his subordinates. The "responsible party" himself, is lamentable.

ROK: Officials Investigated for Air Raid Warning Failure

SK2405134396 Seoul YONHAP in English
1253 GMT 24 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 24 (YONHAP) — Prosecutors investigated Friday [24 May] eight working-level officials of the Home Ministry and the Seoul Metropolitan Government on the failure of the city's air-raid warning system Thursday when a North Korean MiG-19 jet fighter crossed the Demilitarized Zone over the West Sea.

Among the eight was Kim Tu-su, 49, head, Warning Control Tower, Seoul City.

The Public Security Department No. 1 of the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office also questioned Choe Sang-kyu, 51, head, Central Civil Defense Control Office, as a reference to find out how civil defense warning system operates.

Depending on the outcome of investigations of those officials, the prosecution plans to inquire later a few senior metropolitan government officials including Civil Defense Director Pak Kwan-sop.

The Home Ministry's Central Civil Defense Control Office signaled "real standby" twice between 10:57'44 and 58'05 am and "alarm" between 10:59'39 and 11:00'48 am Thursday, but no warning system worked at the metropolitan government, it was uncovered in the probe, according to prosecution sources.

Should it be verified that the Seoul City officials failed to sound off air-raid warning siren, despite having received the warnings, the prosecution plans to prosecute them on negligence of duty and Civil Defense Law violation charges.

ROK: Defection Said To Reveal Poor Quality of DPRK Air Force

SK2505062096 (Internet) The Digital Chosun Ilbo
WWW in English 1151 GMT 24 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Flying an outdated MiG-19 and armed with a pistol and 30 rounds of ammunition, North Korean Captain Yi Chol-su was carrying nothing of weapons intelligence value with him when he defected Thursday [23 May] morning. The defection did reveal, however, that there are many shortcomings in the North Korean Air Force. Yi's helmet, weapons, and flight suit were all in poor condition, and he possessed only one pair of foot wrappings, instead of the standard two pairs. The body of the plane also had numerous patches.

Yi revealed that he has clocked only 350 hours of flight time, despite his 10 years of service. For comparison, a South Korean pilot at the same level, would have clocked an average of 1500-2000 hours of flight time, about 5 times as much as Captain Yi.

It was also discovered that North Korean Air Defense was not aware of the defection for 19 minutes, by which time, Captain Yi had entered South Korean air space. None of the North Korean interceptors scrambled to prevent Yi from flying south, and even the two other pilots in training formation with Yi were unaware of his defection, revealing weaknesses in the North Korean air control and radar systems.

ROK: DPRK Defector Pilot To Meet Press

SK2505090196 Seoul YONHAP in English
0814 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 25 (YONHAP) — Former North Korean Capt. Yi Chol-su, who has recently flown his MiG-19 jet to the South in defection, is to meet the press on next Tuesday [28 May].

The Defense Ministry reported Saturday Yi will hold a press conference on Tuesday morning at a hall to be selected later.

ROK: Further on DPRK Defector Pilot News Conference

SK2805072396 Seoul YONHAP in English
0647 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 28 (YONHAP) — North Korea is preparing another war against South Korea under a blitzkrieg plan to occupy Seoul in 24 hours and the rest of the country, including Pusan, in a week, a North Korean Air Force officer said Tuesday [28 May].

Capt. Yi Chol-su, 30, who flew a MiG-19 to the South to defect from the communist state last Thursday, told a press conference that Pyongyang's three-stage blitz plan involves a stage one main offensive along the Kaesong-Munsan-Seoul corridor and the occupation of Seoul within the first 24 hours of war, taking Taejon in the second stage and Pusan in the final stage.

The North Korean Armed Forces are conducting war exercises according to this plan, he added.

In April 1994, Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, instructed the People's Armed Forces military strategists to draft a war plan that calls for the People's Army to launch a night attack on and occupy the South so that the North Korean people could wake up the following morning to hear about the occupation of the south.

The North Korean MiG-19 pilot said he heard Senior Col. Tokko Yun, 54, the political commissioner attached to his squadron at Onchon Airbase, speak about the seven-day blitzkrieg plan in September 1994.

Calling North Korea a society permeated by irregularities and corruption, the defector said that only high-ranking party and government officials are well off, while those on the lower rungs are only able to climb the social ladder through bribery and flattery.

Disillusioned by the corruption of North Korean society, he decided to defect to the South to warn the South Korean people that the North is preparing for war.

North Korea plans to move an MiG-29 battalion from Sunchon Airbase in North Pyongan Province to Onchon Airbase to reinforce air force squadrons with additional warplanes later this year or early next year, he disclosed.

Last October, approximately 270 warplanes, including MiG-15s and MiG-17s and Il-27 bombers, were re-deployed to Taetan, South Hwanghae Province; Insan, North Hwanghae Province; and Wonsan and Tongchon, Kangwon Province, and the pilots' families were also moved there. These are airbases not far from the demilitarized zone (DMZ) separating the North from the South.

The redeployment was intended to increase the North Korean air force's capability to launch a surprise attack and provide tactical air support to ground troops, he said.

He added that he had been told that the mines laid by the Chinese communist forces in the DMZ during the 1950-53 Korean war were removed last April for the forward deployment of ground troops to neutralize the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean war.

North Korea test-fired a new ground-to-air missile, an improved type of a Russian-made missile, May 14-16 at a shooting range in Soktari, Onchon, with a formation of the Onchon Air Force regiment participating in the test fire and dropping target flare bombs, Capt. Yi said. He said that the newly-developed missile is designed to attack targets without being jammed.

The defector also said that the North is operating fraudulent runways to protect existing airstrips in case the South Korean Air Force makes a night attack, and that the phony landing strips were very difficult to tell from the real thing during drills at the Onchon air depot in March 1995.

On top of that, the Onchon Air Base has an underground runway, in which take-off and landing trainings are possible, according to Yi.

In spite of the severe food shortage among North Korean civilians, Yi disclosed, the military is a food ration priority. Pilots in particular, normally receive 850 grams of rice per day and 950 grams during drills.

Yi cited Senior Col. Tokko as urging unit members not to waste food, while saying that his unit drew a year's ration of rice in advance.

North Korean de facto leader Kim Chong-il has been taking noticeably better care of the military after the death of his father Kim Il-song, the refugee pilot said. Kim has already visited military units seven times this year alone to elicit loyalty and encourage them to be prepared for war, he revealed.

Kim is expected to assume the state presidency after July when the traditional three-year mourning period for his father ends, Yi said, adding that he could not tell, however, whether Kim will assume the nation's highest position this year or next, given his bizarre character.

ROK: DPRK Defector's Belongings Exhibited

SK2605010796 (Internet) *The Digital Chosun Ilbo*
WWW in English 1203 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Personal belongings of Captain Yi Chol-su, who defected to South Korea on Thursday [23 May] on his MiG-19, were exhibited Saturday [25 May] at the Ministry of National Defense building. Among the 58 items were a Paekdu San pistol, feet wrappings (a square cotton sheet to substitute for socks), and an old Russian-made helmet.

The Paekdu San pistol, a new type made in 1984, are those supplied to officers. The watch exhibited was an April 25, 1992 souvenir commemorating the 60th anniversary of the North Korean Army. Other items included South and North Korean maps, note books, cigarettes, a match box, and underwear — all of which were of poor quality.

Among the most heart-warming were two black-and-white pictures: one of Yi with his wife, daughter, and son, under which is written "Memory Always"; the other of Yi with his children.

ROK: DPRK Reportedly Modified MiG-19 Piloted by Defector

SK2605004996 (Internet) *The Joong-Ang Ilbo* WWW
in English 26 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The MiG-19 which Capt. Yi Chol-su of the North Korean Air Force flew in his defection to the South on Thursday [23 May] was found to be a MiG 19-M, an improved version of the MiG 19-A which another North Korean pilot Yi Ung-pyong had flown to South Korea thirteen years ago.

According to the Ministry of National Defense, the MiG 19-M was armored with two air-to-air missiles (19-A had one missile), three 30mm automatic guns, six 57mm rocket bombs and one 1,100 kg bomb.

ROK: Defector Says DPRK Recently Reorganized Air Force

SK2605031296 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
26 May 96 p 1

[Article by reporter Hwang Yu-song "North Korean Air Force Reorganized Into Offensive Type"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that the North Korean Air Force has recently reorganized its Air Force units in such a way that each combat wing can carry out operations independently.

So far, the North Korean Air Force has separately operated various types of aircraft—namely, combat fighters of the MiG type, cargo planes such as An-2's and Il-18's, Mi-24 offensive helicopters, and H-5 bombers—by air wings and air squadrons, however, it reportedly combined these units and reorganized them into composite air wings capable of carrying out independent operations.

A source of the relevant authorities interrogating Captain Yi Chol-su, the MiG-19 pilot who defected to the South with his aircraft on 23 May, said on 25 May: Captain Yi told us this while we were interrogating him. This means that the North Korean Air Force has been reorganized into an offensive type.

The source said that as to the North Korean Air Force's deployment of some 100 of its old-model fighters and bombers in the forward bases near the DMZ toward the end of last year, Captain Yi stated that it was aimed at reducing the time for attacking in case of an emergency.

The source said, in particular, that Captain Yi said that North Korea has recently developed a new-type surface-to-air missile, therefore, the interrogation is continuing as to the specific nature of the newly-developed missile. The source added that Captain Yi confirmed the fact that North Korea reinforced its troops near the border area and intensified surveillance to prevent the North Korean residents from escaping from the North owing to serious economic problems and food shortages.

Meanwhile, it has been disclosed that the MiG-19 which Captain Yi Chol-su brought to the South is a MiG-19M, an improved model of the MiG-19A which Captain Yi Ung-pyong brought to the South when he defected in 1983.

This newer MiG-19 model, which is estimated to have been manufactured in the late fifties, is equipped with

another air-to-air missile, thus capable of firing two missiles, three 30mm machine-guns, six 57mm rockets, and can carry 1,100 kilograms of bombs.

ROK: Seoul To Take Measures for Possible Retaliation by North

SK2705034896 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean
27 May 96 p 3

[By reporter Ku Pon-yong]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned that the government is taking several preparatory measures in view of the possibility that North Korea may carry out terrorist acts in the future and kidnap ROK figures abroad in retaliation for the defection of the North Korean MiG-19 pilot on 23 May.

In particular, it was learned that to doubly secure the personal safety of Koreans such as diplomats, employees of companies abroad, and students studying overseas, the government will be soon sending instructions to overseas missions calling their attention to this matter.

The government took such measures following the belief that as proven by the defection of the MiG-19 pilot, there is a possibility for North Korea to come forward in a more offensive way to overcome its crisis and to assert domestic control because the crisis of its system has reached its limit.

In this regard, it was learned that the government internally established that there is a need to further strengthen the personal safety of high-ranking government figures when they are on official trips at home and abroad.

ROK: Russia's Denisov Expects DPRK To Reject 4-Way Talks

SK2205141996 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network
in Korean 1226 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An international symposium jointly sponsored by the Kyongnam University and the American University was held at the Seoul Hilton Hotel today with the theme "The Strategy for Korean Reunification in the 21st Century." A new fact was revealed in today's international symposium that Kim Il-song planned to invade the South in 1975 but the plan could not be implemented because of opposition from China and Russia. Reporter Choe Chae-yeon reports.

[Begin Choe Chae-yeon recording] In today's international symposium, Denisov, deputy director of the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Russian Foreign Ministry, speaking on the theme "Russia and the Reunification on the

Korean Peninsula," disclosed that North Korea's Kim Il-sung completed preparations for war in 1975 and went to China himself and requested Chinese assistance. However, the reckless provocation plan of North Korea was frustrated by the opposition of China and the former Soviet Union, he said. He stressed that the former Soviet Union and Russia have opposed reunification on the Korean peninsula by force of arms.

Deputy Director Denisov, who is expected to assume the post as next Russian ambassador to North Korea, observed that contrary to some hopeful view, North Korea will ultimately reject the four-way talks because North Korea wants to resolve the issues on the Korean peninsula through direct dialogue with the United States.

In this connection, Robert Gallucci, former U.S. ambassador-at-large on the North Korean nuclear issue, said in a keynote speech that the ROK Government ought to be flexible in its North Korean policy to induce North Korea to come to the conference table of the four-way talks.

Experts note that this view expressed by Gallucci reflects the U.S. Government's move to attempt to approach North Korea exercising flexibility without being bound by the ROK Government. [end recording]

ROK: Minister Kwon Says Economic Issues To Be on 4-Way Talks Agenda

SK2805074996 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 0300 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Kwon O-ki revealed today that the ROK Government's policy toward North Korea will be carried out by simultaneously seeking intergovernmental North-South dialogue and economic exchange.

He said this at a Mapo Forum [a fraternity institute operated by Pak Kwan-yong, former presidential chief of staff] seminar on the North Korean political situation and the ROK policy toward North Korea, held this morning at the Garden Hotel in Mapo, Seoul.

He also said that the government assumes a neutral position since the people's opinion regarding assistance to North Korea is divided.

In connection with the proposed four-party talks, he said that the ROK and the United States proposed to North Korea that economic issues be on the agenda in the talks, as well as the peace mechanism issue, and that the ROK Government is still waiting for an official response from North Korea.

Present at the seminar were 53 member of the Mapo Forum, including New Korea Party Chairman Yi Hong-

ku and Former Deputy Prime Ministers Yi Yong-tok, Yi Kyong-sik, and Hong Chae-hyong.

ROK: Russian Envoy Discusses 4-Way Talks Issue SK2605015496 Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean 30 May 96 pp 46-47

[Interview with Georgiy Kunadze, Russian ambassador to the ROK, by Pyon Chang-sop — place and date not given; first paragraph is SISA JOURNAL introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Kong No-myong has recently visited Russia to explain the proposal of the four-way talks, in which North and South Korea, the United States and China would participate in a bid to build a peace regime on the Korean peninsula. Concerning the proposal, Foreign Minister Kong No-myong asked for cooperation from the Russian side. However, he returned without achieving his expected objectives. As a result, the ROK-Russia relations, which in September will mark the sixth anniversary of their establishment, are showing signs of discord. Amid a widespread rumor about inconvenient relations between the two countries, Georgiy Kunadze, Russian ambassador to the ROK, (48) denied this during a recent meeting with reporter Pyon Chang-sop. However, he expressed regret over the fact that the ROK [as published] has excluded Russia in connection with the four-way talks. In particular, he stated that "if Russia is ultimately not allowed to participate in the four-way talks, it will seek its own independent means to ensure its national interest," thus attracting extraordinary attention of the people. Ambassador Kunadze is a leading Russian diplomat who served as vice foreign minister and visited Seoul in January 1994. He explained the Russian position toward the four-way talks, as well as its dissatisfaction.

[Pyon] ROK Foreign Minister Kong No-myong failed to directly deliver the personal letter [from the ROK president] to President Yeltsin when he visited Moscow recently. Some observers noted that this was prompted by Russia's displeasure for being excluded from the four-way talks, which are aimed at building a peace regime on the Korean peninsula.

[Kunadze] It is true that during the talks with Minister Kong, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov did not support the four-way talks. Besides, the Russian Government failed to arrange a meeting between Minister Kong and President Yeltsin. However, all this has nothing to do with the Russian position concerning the four-way talks. Russia will conduct a presidential election on 16 June this year. Accordingly, President Yeltsin is devoted to the election campaign. I believe that although Russia does not support the four-way talks, overall ROK-Russia relations will not be affected by this.

[Pyon] The ROK press has been critical of Minister Kong's diplomacy carried out through his recent visit to Russia. What is your opinion on this, Mr. Ambassador?

[Kunadze] After Foreign Minister Kong No-myong visited Russia, some ROK press carried such articles that even offered insult to Russia. This should not be passed unnoticed. In particular, a certain paper wrote that Russia did not support the four-way talks because it wants to pursue an hegemonist ambition. This is indeed groundless. This type of reporting may complicate relations between the two countries. In addition, the ROK press carried reports on the Russian position similar to this paper. I am not sure as to whether all these reports are accidental or have been prompted by some other factors.

[Pyon] Why is Russia dissatisfied with the four-way talks?

[Kunadze] Russia was not consulted by anyone in advance concerning the proposal for the four-way talks, to speak more precisely, the 2 (North and South Korea) + 2 (the United States and China) talks. Russia was informed of the four-way talk proposal only a day before it was announced. This being the case, Russia was unable to have time to review and respond to the issue. Furthermore, the fact that Russia was excluded from the four-way talks has the same effect as the people's assessment that Russia is unbecoming to the talks. This is the reason why Russia does not support the four-way talks.

[Pyon] Then, what is the precise position of the Russian Government toward the four-way talks?

[Kunadze] Speaking in principle, Russia feels that the Armistice Agreement signed in 1953 should be observed until a new agreement is concluded. The new peace agreement should be concluded between North and South Korea. This position is consistent with that of the ROK Government. In particular, the peace regime on the Korean peninsula is the issue directly related to Russia's national interest. Russia has two views on the issue concerning the four-way talks. First, Russia believes that by participating in the four-way talks from the beginning, Russia will practically contribute to achieving peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. Second, Russia is willing to participate in the talks, because the issue of Russia's security will be discussed there.

[Pyon] Has Russia not proposed the six-way talks for the peace regime on the Korean peninsula, in which North and South Korea, China, Russia, Japan and the United States would participate?

[Kunadze] Not the six-way talks but eight-way talks in which not only six nations would participate but also two international organizations. The most desirable method for discussing long-term problems is to go through an international conference. In this conference, the United Nations, which participated in the Korean war, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is related to the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, should participate, in addition to six countries including Russia. This proposal is still in effect. We regret that the ROK does not support this proposal. If the four-way talks are held, the issue of a peace regime on the Korean peninsula will likely be discussed there. The peace regime should work as a basis for long-term stability in Northeast Asia. The peace regime on the Korean peninsula should be forward-looking and based on the reality, instead of going back to the past as a starting point. In the event that Russia's national interest is not ensured as a result of its failure to participate in the four-way talks, Russia would have to see that its national interests are ensured in some other ways.

[Pyon] What do you mean by saying that Russia will seek independent ways for the protection of its national interest if Russia is excluded from the four-way talks?

[Kunadze] If there is the need for Russia to take an independent action, Russia may inform the ROK side of the action, in view of its friendly relations with the ROK. However, the judgment that since Russia's position on the Korean peninsula has been weakened, Russia cannot participate in the issues concerning the Korean peninsula, is a hasty and erroneous conclusion.

[Pyon] The ROK Government explained that Russia is excluded from the four-way talks for the sake of the efficiency of the talks.

[Kunadze] Since the foreign ministers of the two nations sufficiently exchanged their views on the four-way talks during their recent meeting, I have nothing to add. Besides, in a news conference held after the talks, Minister Primakov said he understood Minister Kong's explanation, and Minister Kong himself stated he hopes for the understanding of his explanation.

[Pyon] However, diplomatic rhetoric about mutual understanding could be put into other words, showing there certainly were differences between the two. What is your opinion?

[Kunadze] The two sides did not conceal differences in their positions. However, we need not take a pessimistic view nor exaggerate the differences. Even if there are such differences, ROK-Russia cooperation will continue.

[Pyon] Do you mean that relations between our two countries should not be hampered by such differences?

[Kunadze] You are right. However, viewing the attitude of the ROK press in reporting the result of Minister Kong's recent visit to Moscow, I am not fully confident that our relations will advance only in the direction we all hope for. I do hope that the ROK press will show a well-balanced and mature attitude.

[Pyon] What role is Russia wishing to play for ensuring the peace regime on the Korean peninsula?

[Kunadze] In a few words, Russia can play the affirmative role. The ROK and Russia have many similar, common views in evaluating the situation on the Korean peninsula. Russia's view that permanent peace and stability on the Korean peninsula can be achieved through the unification of North and South Korea is the same as that of the ROK. Russia believes that since it maintains good relations with both North and South Korea, it is able to play a very good role.

[Pyon] What is your view on North Korea suffering from food shortages? Do you have any plan to aid North Korea?

[Kunadze] We assess that the DPRK is in a very difficult situation. North Korea is suffering not only from food shortages but also from overall economic difficulty. Moreover, because of energy shortages, plants are not operating properly. It is also urgent for North Korea to rebuild enterprises which were built with the assistance of the former Soviet Union. Russia is ready to help North Korea as much as possible. Such assistance can be by offering food or giving loans to rebuild enterprises. Russia can also help North Korea by increasing trade.

ROK: Richardson Reportedly Carrying Clinton's Letter to DPRK

SK2605031896 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 26 May 96 p 1

[Report by Kim Yong-ho]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson (Democrat, New Mexico), who will visit North Korea on 26 May for negotiations on the remains of U.S. soldiers, is carrying a personal letter from U.S. President Clinton. According to a diplomatic source, the issues concerning the establishment of future North Korea-U.S. relations, including the four-way talks for peace on the Korean peninsula, the opening of DPRK-U.S. liaison offices, the relaxing of economic sanctions against North Korea, and the establishment of diplomatic relations, have been comprehensively mentioned in the letter.

Congressman Richardson will be accompanied by officials from the U.S. State and Defense Departments during his visit to North Korea. Congressman Richardson revealed that he will visit Seoul via Panmunjom around 28 May after completing his activities in Pyongyang and explain the result of his North Korean visit to the ROK side. It has not been confirmed whether Congressman Richardson will meet Kim Chong-il or not during his visit to North Korea. However, diplomatic sources in Seoul observed that the personal letter from President Clinton will be conveyed to Kim Chong-il through one channel or the other. President Clinton sent his personal letter to Kim Il-song in 1994 through former U.S. President Carter. It is the first time for President Clinton to send a personal letter to Kim Chong-il.

Meanwhile, THE NEW YORK TIMES on 25 May reported that Congressman Richardson will visit North Korea in the capacity of a proxy (taerin chagyok) of President Clinton.

ROK: U.S. Congressman Richardson To Brief ROK on Pyongyang Visit

SK2705054196 Seoul YONHAP in English 0532 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 27 (YONHAP) — Congressman Bill Richardson of the United States, now in Pyongyang in connection with the repatriation of American soldiers missing in action since the Korean war, will visit Seoul Tuesday (28 May) to brief Seoul officials on the outcome of his meetings with Pyongyang officials, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

"Richardson will arrive at Osan Air Base late Tuesday, probably after 6 PM, via Tokyo," Director General Yu Myong-hwan of the ministry's American Affairs Bureau said. "The U.S. congressman will brief us on the result of his Pyongyang visit before leaving Seoul Wednesday morning for Washington."

Richardson will have meetings with Foreign Ministry officials, according to Yu. He did not, however, elaborate on who the Democratic congressman will meet in Seoul.

Richard Christensen, deputy head of the U.S. State Department's Korea office, and a Defense Department official in charge of MIA and POW affairs, accompanied Richardson to Pyongyang.

The director general said that "Richardson's visit to Pyongyang is meaningful in that the U.S. State Department supports it, although it is very common that the U.S. Administration allows its officials to accompany congressmen to overseas tours when need be."

Yu dismissed, however, reports that Richardson, who is affiliated with the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, was assigned by the Clinton administration to work on the repatriation of the remains of missing American servicemen.

"Such a claim by Richardson and his aides must have been exaggerated, although his visit does have meaning in consideration of the deep concern American people and politicians have for the missing soldiers," he said.

"The nature of politicians is the same both in South Korea and the United States in that they want to publicize or even exaggerate their political achievements," said the official, requesting that one should take that into account when assessing the nature of Richardson's Pyongyang visit.

Richardson flew to Pyongyang Sunday in a U.S. Air Force flight by way of Tokyo.

The U.S. Democrat has already visited Pyongyang twice to discuss the repatriation of the remains of U.S. servicemen. In one meeting, he successfully persuaded Pyongyang to release a surviving American pilot and the body of another pilot after an American military helicopter was grounded by North Koreans near the Demilitarized Zone in 1994.

ROK: Foreign Minister, Richardson To Discuss DPRK Trip

SK2705063996 Seoul YONHAP in English
0625 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 27 (YONHAP) — Foreign Minister Kong No-myong will meet with U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson late Tuesday [28 May] to be briefed on the U.S. politician's recent visit to Pyongyang, Foreign Ministry Spokesman So Tae-won said Monday.

Kong and Richardson will probably discuss North Korea's response to the four party meeting proposed by Seoul and Washington last month for a permanent peace agreement to replace the current armistice treaty which ended the three-year war on the Korean peninsula in 1953, according to ministry officials.

The main purpose of the U.S. congressman's visit to Pyongyang is to discuss matters concerned with the repatriation of the remains of American servicemen missing since the Korean war but ministry officials did not rule out the possibility of Richardson and North Korean officials discussing the proposal on the four-party peace talks and other political issues.

The officials added, however, that discussion itself did not mean that Richardson was empowered by the

Clinton administration to negotiate the four-way talks with Pyongyang authorities.

ROK: DPRK Aimed To Drive ROK-U.S. 'Wedge' by Inviting Richardson

SK2805080396 Seoul YONHAP in English
0734 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 28 (YONHAP) — North Korea aimed to drive a wedge between South Korea and the United States by inviting U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson to Pyongyang to allow him to be a middleman in solving issues related to the return of the remains of American servicemen listed missing since the Korean war, a Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday [28 May].

Richardson's Pyongyang visit might give the impression that Washington is engaged in direct discussions with Pyongyang about the four-party talks and other political issues despite the fact that Washington has consistently denied the possibility of directly contacting Pyongyang without Seoul's participation, Director General Yu Myong-hwan of the ministry's American Affairs Bureau.

"What can Rep. Richardson do after Washington and Pyongyang officials recently reached a repatriation agreement?" Yu asked.

Richardson and his aides said the purpose of his visit to Pyongyang is to settle issues concerning the return of the remains of American soldiers.

The U.S. congressman actually applied to visit Pyongyang last January after MIA talks between the United States and North Korea had stalled, according to Yu.

"Richardson wanted to be the go-between for the United States and North Korean Governments at that time of the MIA issue, but there is nothing he can do now that the two governments have already settled the issue," Yu said.

Yu dismissed Richardson's visit to Pyongyang as the result of a mixture of the North's need to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington, particularly with regard to their North Korea policy, and the U.S. representative's desire to publicize his political ambitions aimed at the upcoming elections in the United States.

The director general reaffirmed, however, that "there's no change in the common position between South Korea and the United States that the U.S. Government will not establish a direct channel of communication with North

Korea to discuss the proposed four-party talks and other political issues."

By that, Yu means that Richardson has no authority to negotiate with Pyongyang officials on the repatriation of the missing American soldiers or the four-party peace talks, although he can discuss the matters with North Korean officials in his capacity as a U.S. congressman.

Yu did not attach much importance to Richardson's use of a U.S. Air Force flight to fly into Pyongyang.

According to Yu, it is very common for U.S. congressman to use Air Force planes in overseas tours in order not to limit their schedules to commercial flight timetables. Air Force flights are also cheaper than commercial flights for the U.S. representatives.

Richard Christensen, deputy chief of the Korea office at the U.S. State Department, accompanied Richardson to Pyongyang as an interpreter, Yu said. Christensen has a South Korean wife and is known to be an excellent Korean speaker.

Yu also interpreted a U.S. Defense Department official accompanying Richardson as part of the "familiarization" with North Korea needed to prepare for establishing liaison offices in Pyongyang and Washington.

He noted that U.S. State Department officials had visited Pyongyang on several occasions to observe the storage of the North's spent nuclear fuel rods, even though they are not nuclear experts.

ROK: Richardson Unable To Meet With Kong Due To Delay in DPRK

SK2805083496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0826 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 28 (YONHAP) — U.S. Rep. Bill Richardson will not be able to meet with Foreign Minister Kong No-myong Tuesday [28 May] because he was delayed in North Korea, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Richardson will instead have a breakfast meeting with Director General Yu Myong-hwan of the ministry's American Affairs Bureau to brief Seoul on his visit to Pyongyang, the spokesman said.

The breakfast meeting will be held at the official residence of Acting U.S. Ambassador Charles Kartman in downtown Seoul.

Richardson stayed in Pyongyang for a couple more hours than originally scheduled, making it impossible for him to meet with Kong Tuesday evening, according to the spokesman.

The U.S. congressman will arrive at Osan Air Base at about 10 PM, the spokesman said.

The spokesman, however, was unable to confirm what caused Richardson to change his schedule due to poor communications with North Korea.

Richardson flew into Pyongyang Sunday in an effort to help solve issues related to the return of American servicemen missing during the Korean war.

He will hold a press conference at Kimpo International Airport at 9:30 AM just before leaving Seoul.

ROK: U.S., DPRK To Combine Separate Talks

SK2805014096 Seoul YONHAP in English
0116 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 28 (YONHAP) — The United States and North Korea have agreed to combine on-going separate bilateral negotiations beginning next month so that several pending issues can be addressed in a comprehensive manner, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported in a dispatch from New York Tuesday [28 May].

The dispatch quoted sources involved in Washington-Pyongyang relations as saying that bilateral talks between the two countries, which have been going on separately from each other depending on issues, will be combined beginning in June.

In the comprehensive type of negotiation, the United States is expected to be represented by an acting assistant secretary of state, and North Korea by a vice foreign minister, the report said.

The meeting will address the establishment of liaison offices, restrictions on the development and exportation of missiles, the repatriation of the remains of American soldiers listed missing in action since the 1950-53 Korean War and food aid, the daily reported.

The United States is also expected to continue pressing Pyongyang to begin a dialogue with Seoul, as agreed upon in the 1994 framework agreement, according to the daily.

A source was quoted as saying that liaison offices, manned by up to seven staff members, will be exchanged in September prior to the November U.S. presidential elections.

On additional U.S. food aid to the North the daily quoted a source as saying, "The upcoming relief will not be rice but mainly flour. And it will be offered not through an international agency, but directly."

ROK: U.S. Files Complaint With WTO on Produce Inspection

*SK2705054496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0522 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 27 (YONHAP) — The United States recently filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) over South Korea's inspection system for agricultural imports, claiming that the system effectively blocks U.S. access to the Korean market, Foreign Ministry Spokesman So Tae-won said Monday [27 May].

The United States filed the complaint with the WTO dispute settlement regime in the hope that the procedure would deal with South Korea's entire inspection system for farm imports, So said.

Seoul and Washington have been negotiating on South Korea's inspection system since April last year when the complaint was first filed with the WTO.

South Korea, however, is insisting that only perishable farm products should be the subject of negotiations, while the U.S. side is demanding that the nation's whole inspection system must be addressed.

The major points of contention are disinfection of farm imports, selection of perishable fruits, introduction of random sampling and abolition of self-introduced standards.

Regulations of the WTO dispute settlement regime requires South Korea to hold a meeting with the United States within 30 days from the filing of the complaint.

Both sides can demand the establishment of a dispute settlement panel within 60 days from the start of the settlement procedure.

ROK: 3,000 Anti-Government Students Protest, Urge U.S. Apology

*SK2605084496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0753 GMT 26 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP) — More than 3,000 students of the Hanchongnyon, the Korea Federation of University Student Councils, demonstrated on the streets of Seoul on Sunday [26 May], urging the United States to openly apologize for its involvement in the May 18 bloody suppression of 1980 Kwangju democratization movement.

The student [singular as received] held a rally at Yonsei University to criticize the country and said, "The United States has never made any apology even after the fact was disclosed that there was approval of the United States at the time of the May 18 suppression."

The Hanchongnyon students urged the United States to openly apologize and disclose its secret documents about the May 18 incident. They also demanded that the Korean Government should remove the remaining vestiges of the 5th and 6th republics.

The 5th republic was led by former Army General Chon Tu-hwan and the 6th by his friend and another Army General No Tae-u. They are now under trial for rebellion and bribery charges.

The students held the demonstration at several places of Seoul and the police deployed 1,200 riot police forces to cope with any violent demonstration. But there was no violence on the streets.

ROK: President Sends Memorial Day Message to U.S. Soldiers

*SK2705025696 Seoul YONHAP in English
0224 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 27 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam, observing the U.S. Memorial Day Monday [27 May], sent a message encouraging American soldiers stationed in South Korea and rendering homage to the American war dead.

Kim said in the message that South Korea and the United States, as the most intimate allies, are closely cooperating to realize such universal human values as democracy and human rights and to develop the market economy and world's free trade.

"Korea-U.S. relations are bound by blood and sweat over a long period of time and is so solid and stable today that it cannot be changed by any ordeal," Kim emphasized.

He continued that "the Korean people will never forget the ultimate sacrifice made by the American soldiers who died a glorious death for freedom and democracy in South Korea."

ROK: Monthly on Secret North-South Contacts in PRC

*SK2605111896 Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean
Jun 96 pp 114-119*

[Report by U Chong-chang: "Information File: High-Level Officials Having Secret North-South Contacts"]

[FBIS Summary] Twenty Reunification Agents on Overseas Trip

Han Sang-won, secretary of the Fourth Coordination Office of the First State Minister of Political Affairs, left on an official trip to Germany on 3 May. Not long

after his departure, political circles heard the rumor that he had gone to Germany to study reunification.

The Office of the First State Minister of Political Affairs refused to talk about his trip, saying it was "a second-class secret." His trip is not a secret among his colleagues, who said: "His trip is related to studying reunification, but we do not know the details. He will be back in September."

His trip was reportedly arranged by the Ministry of National Unification (MNU). An MNU official admitted: "Twenty officials from 16 ministries and departments, including Secretary Han of the Ministry of Political Affairs, left on a six-month overseas trip in March to visit 11 countries, including Germany, China, Russia, Yemen, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Vietnam, Japan, and the United States, to study what each department has to do to prepare for reunification." They will be trained as "reunification agents."

The MNU official said: "We sent 20 people last year, and another 20 this year." Asked about why their trips were classified, the official explained: "We do not want to agitate North Korea by letting them know we are training agents to prepare for reunification."

The official was reluctant to answer my question about what specifically Han is studying, but later answered: "Party mergers in Germany," and said no more.

A draft reunification constitution was written during the Fifth Republic. The draft covered all constitutional points except the power system. Whether the country will be a federal or a central government, a presidential or a parliamentary government, was left for political negotiations.

The political circles are not sensitive to the public officials' overseas trips but to a possible constitutional revision under the pretext of reunification.

Advance Notice of North Korea's Panmunjom Provocation?

North and South Korea had secret contacts in Beijing in February, using the oldest and most frequently used unofficial channel. The channel was first set up by the ROK's Korea Trade Promotion Corporation and North Korea's Foreign Trade Ministry office in Macao in 1989.

North Korea reportedly confided its difficult economic situation during the meeting in February, saying: "Food rationing has been suspended for six months in the provinces of North Hamgyong, Yanggang, and Chagang along the Yalu and Tumen Rivers. Since the beginning of this year, Pyongyang has also had limited rations. People must work without food. Only 10 percent of the

workers show up at mines. Iron ore extracted from the Musan Mine is sent to Kim Chaek Steel Mill through a large pipeline using hydraulic pressure, but the pipe was frozen last winter. We mobilized 20,000 people to melt the pipe with wood fire, but the blast furnace had already gone off. We need to break the furnace and rebuild it in order to reactivate the furnace. This is the situation at the Kim Chaek Steel Mill. Not knowing the situation, the ROK is trying to stifle us."

Then the North Korean officials denounced President Kim Yong-sam. The nuance was not an appeal for aid but hatred. The ROK official who attended the meeting said: "The tone was horrifying."

The North Korean officials reportedly said: "We do not ask the ROK to give us rice again. We understand the position of the ROK Government, which lost the local elections because of the 150,000 tonnes of rice aid. We do not ask direct aid from the ROK. The United States, Japan, and Southeast Asian countries spontaneously announced that they would provide food. Why is the ROK interfering with this? The ROK pressures the United States, and interferes with Thai aid. This is what we are complaining about. Leave us alone."

Then the North Korean officials reportedly warned about their last card, saying: "If the ROK President continues to pressure third countries and stifle us, that leaves us only one choice. We will declare the invalidation of the DMZ and withdraw our troops. We will let starving people go south as they wish. Would you be able to handle this?"

A few days later, North Korea invoked the Panmunjom provocation.

A high-ranking MNU official said: "Exactly four days before the provocation, the United States notified us that North Korea would soon show abnormal actions in Panmunjom." The official added: "North Korea's Panmunjom provocation was predicted in many ways."

Kim Chong-u's Beijing Trip

Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of the North Korean External Economic Committee, arrived in Beijing on 17 April. During his three-day stay, he met with Yi Hwan-kyun, ROK vice minister of finance and economy, and two other ROK officials at the Landmark Hotel.

North Korean officials asked why the ROK has not yet presented details for North-South economic cooperation, and said: "We are willing to discuss economic cooperation right here." The ROK officials raised the Panmunjom provocation issue, and said: "This is not the right time to discuss economic cooperation." Nothing was agreed during the meeting, but it was confirmed

how desperately North Korea wants economic cooperation.

Kim Chong-u also met with a number of ROK businessmen and asked them to invest in the Najin-Sonbong special economic zone.

An ROK businessman who was in Beijing when Kim Chong-u was there, said: "I heard that at a Provincial Party Committee secretary's party for Kim Chong-il's birthday, there were only six dishes, and most of them were wild greens. The privileged ones are beginning to feel the horror of starvation. I wonder where that would lead to. I heard that a number of people starve to death every day. Farms are worse than the cities, and mines are worse than farms. What North Korea needs is not rice but wheat and corn. Many North Korean cadres are in Beijing to seek food, but China's food situation is not good, either. China sent 200,000 tonnes of corn to North Korea in 1994, but not a grain ear was sent to North Korea in 1995 and 1996."

Hundreds of Millions of Dollars for ROK's Attendance at the Four-Party Talks

The ROK Government did three things this year to improve North-South relations. The first was the plan to send a secret envoy studied in January. The secret envoy's contact was requested by North Korea to overcome its food shortage. However, the meeting was canceled later because someone raised the suspicion that North Korea was scheming to influence the 11 April general election. The secret envoy's contact was postponed until after 11 April.

The second was the proposal for the four-party talks. The third is the secret North-South talks on the four-party proposal, which are still underway. A high-ranking official designated by the president was sent to China.

North Korea has requested a \$300 million grant and food in exchange for the four-party talks. North Korea has also asked that the ROK give a \$100 million grant first to show good faith. The ROK Government's position is that when the ROK makes one concession, North Korea should also make one. The government has instructed the secret envoy to tell North Korea that the ROK would respond if the North Korean authorities made an official request. North Korea has yet to answer the ROK's proposal.

ROK: UNC To Repatriate Remains of North Korean Soldier 29 May

SK2805082096 Seoul YONHAP in English
0741 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 28 (YONHAP) — The United Nations Command (UNC) said that it will

repatriate Wednesday [29 May] afternoon the body of a North Korean soldier which is believed to have floated down from the North last summer.

The soldier was apparently a victim of the devastating floods in the North last year, a UNC source said, and its repatriation, to be made in the truce village of Panmunjom at 1:30 PM, is being done as a humanitarian gesture.

ROK: Government Announces Projections on DPRK Famine Situation

SK2805021096 (Internet) The Digital Chosun Ilbo
WWW in English 1218 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to projections by the South Korean government, there will be no famine in North Korea until mid-August at least. As of yet, North Korea has secured a total of 4.41 million tons of grain, including 960,000 tons from foreign countries, approaching the 1994 figure of 4.48 million tons of grain.

An official of the National Unification Board [Ministry of National Unification] announced Monday, that the 960,000 tons of grain imported is 2.7 times the 360,000 tons of grain imported in 1994. According to the same source, this will be sufficient to end the famine. This is in conflict with appraisals by international aid agencies which maintain that North Koreans will go hungry in June and July. If the North were to release its stored grain, estimated at 1.2 million tons, there will be no famine after August, the South Korean government says.

ROK: Unification Officials Comment on DPRK's Food Situation

SK2805061996 Seoul YONHAP in English
0539 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 28 (YONHAP) — North Korea's food situation is unlikely to deteriorate to the point of massive famine, considering that the grain it secured last year was not far off from that it had in 1994, a National Unification Ministry official said Monday [27 May].

Last year the communist nation secured a total of 4,412,000 tons of grain, 3,450,000 tons from domestic production and the remainder, 962,000 tons, from imports and grants extended by South Korea, Japan and various international organizations, the official said.

The amount is only 70,000 tons short of the 4,480,000 tons it secured in 1994 with a 4,120,000-ton harvest and 360,000 tons from external sources, the official noted.

Japan was the largest supplier last year with 370,000 tons, followed by Thailand with 162,000 tons, China with 153,000 tons and South Korea with 150,000 tons.

Considering that North Korea has received over 500,000 tons of rice aid from outside of the country since last November and has been promised 100,000 tons of similar aids from Vietnam, Syria and the world food program of the United Nations, the official said, the North is not expected to experience a serious food crisis before mid-August without having released the emergency stockpile, which is estimated at 1,200,000 tons.

Another official said, "Statistically, there seems to be no big difference in the North Korean food situation when compared to other years. All in all, North Korea is just trying to make up for the grain loss incurred by last year's floods with grant aids from South Korea, Japan and international organizations and imported grain."

He said, "It is certain, however, that the food situation has worsened as the accumulation of annual food shortages over a long period of time has finally taken its toll.

"Since there are limitations to the size of cuts in staple food consumption, North Koreans will be able to do little else but reduce its use of grain for industrial and livestock purposes."

ROK: Official on International Red Cross Delegation Trip to DPRK

SK2705060696 Seoul YONHAP in English
0559 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 27 (YONHAP) — An International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) delegation led by its secretary-general, George Weber, arrived in North Korea Saturday [25 May] to examine the food situation and explore the prospect of additional food aid, a government official here said Monday.

"I've heard Weber may stay there until Tuesday to examine the food situation and meet with North Korean officials including Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Red Cross Society, to discuss additional IFRC food aid," the official said.

Another IFRC member, Geoffrey Denis [name as received] of Great Britain, will stay on longer to closely study, along with the permanent IFRC representative in Pyongyang, the reality of the North's food situation, he added.

After its examination, the IFRC could conceivably ask member countries for additional food assistance to the communist country.

The relief organization, which began shipping its second aid package to the North in April and will continue to give aid until October, plans to provide 12,185 tons of rice, 2,730 tons of beans and 364,000 liters of cooking oil for about 130,000 North Korean flood victims.

The (South) Korea National Red Cross has donated 10,000 blankets, 100,000 servings of instant noodles, 20,000 pairs of socks and 186,000 liters of cooking oil to North Korea.

ROK: Japan To Upgrade Cheju Office to Consulate-General

SK2705083796 Seoul YONHAP in English
0748 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cheju, May 27 (YONHAP) — The Japanese Embassy's consular office based here will be upgraded to a full-fledged consulate-general beginning Jan. 1 next year in view of its ever-increasing load, officials at the Cheju provincial government said Monday.

The Japanese Government is expected to name a councillor-level diplomat consul-general and assign a staff of 14 under the post, the officials said. The office currently has a staff of nine.

Established in 1991, the Cheju office issued 13,000 entry visas last year, ranking it 17th among 200 Japanese consular offices worldwide.

ROK: Japan Visit by DPRK Delegation Reportedly Postponed

SK2705081196 Seoul YONHAP in English
0753 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 27 (YONHAP) — The visit to Japan by a North Korean Workers' Party delegation scheduled to begin Monday [27 May] at the invitation of the Socialist Democratic Party of Japan (SDP) has been abruptly postponed.

It is not known when the Pyongyang delegation will visit Japan, an SDP official said.

A four-member mission, headed by Yi Chong-hyok, vice chairman of the (North) Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, was to arrive at Narita International Airport Monday evening via Beijing for a week-long visit.

SDP's partners in the Japanese ruling coalition — the Liberal Democratic Party and the New Party Sakigake — had earlier refused to meet the Pyongyang delegation

unless the North accepts the proposed four-way peace talks on the Korean Peninsula.

The mission's Japan visit thus appears to have been postponed because at this juncture no progress can be expected on additional rice assistance from Japan.

ROK: DPRK Delegation Suspends Visit to Japan
SK2705130596 Seoul YONHAP in English
1239 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 27 (YONHAP) — A North Korean Workers' Party delegation, supposed to visit Japan Monday [27 May] at the invitation of the Japan Social Democratic Party (SDP), suspended the visit on the ground that no schedule has been devised for talks between the delegation and the Liberal Democratic Party.

Keiko Chiba, director of the SDP International Bureau, told a press conference that Kim Yong-sun, a Workers' Party secretary, faxed the SDP to say that the visit would be postponed indefinitely.

The four-man delegation led by Yi Chong-hyok, a deputy department head of the Workers' Party, was known to be remaining in Beijing.

But, chances for its visit to Tokyo are very slim because the two other parties in the ruling coalition — Liberal Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake — insist that they cannot meet the delegation unless Pyongyang accepts the four-way meeting proposal.

The SDP was contacting the LDP and Sakigake to find a way to materialize the planned visit, but the talks were going a rough sailing, a source said.

ROK: Asia-Pacific Conference on Space Technology Opens

SK2805035496 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
28 May 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 3rd Asia-Pacific Conference on Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications opened yesterday at the Olympic Park-tel in Seoul.

The five-day meeting organized jointly by the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Korea Aerospace Research Institute will feature presentations of academic papers by participants and discussions on ways to cooperate on various space technological developments.

Over 60 experts representing 38 organizations and research centers from 20 countries are in Seoul for the confab.

The main items on the agenda for the meeting is the joint development and application of small multi-mission

satellites and the use of a global positioning system (GPS) on an international level.

Countries actively involved in the project include Korea, Thailand, Pakistan, and China.

ROK, Canadian Defense Ministers Discuss Asia-Pacific Security

SK2705020496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0104 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 27 (YONHAP) — Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho met with his Canadian counterpart, David Collenette, Monday [27 May] to exchange views on the security situation in the Asia-Pacific region and boost bilateral military ties.

The two defense officials signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the defense industry and logistics, covering munitions, arms purchases, transfer of defense-related technology and follow-up logistics support.

They discussed how to get the proposed four-way talks for peace on the Korean peninsula moving along faster.

Having arrived in Seoul Saturday, Collenette will visit the truce village of Panmunjom and Independence Hall before leaving the country on Tuesday.

ROK: President Voices Hope for Burma's Efforts Toward Democracy

SK2705051796 Seoul YONHAP in English
0501 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 27 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam voiced his hope Monday [27 May] that the Myanmar [Burma] Government would continue its efforts for democratization and improvement of human rights.

Kim unveiled the hope while expressing concern about the recent situation in which opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been confined under house arrest and other democratic figures have been arrested, Presidential Spokesman Yun Yo-chun said.

President Kim previously urged the Myanmar Government's active effort to promote democracy and allow Suu Kyi political freedom when he had a meeting with Myanmar Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaaw last November at Chongwadae [presidential offices].

ROK: France Helps ROK Evacuate 9 Koreans From CAR

*SK2505062496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0542 GMT 25 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 25 (YONHAP) — France has evacuated to safety nine Koreans from the Central African Republic [CAR], which is in the midst of a military revolt, the Foreign Ministry announced Saturday [25 May].

Eight Korean nationals were safely escorted by the French military to neighboring Gabon and one to France via a transport plane, the ministry reported. South Korean missions in Gabon and Cameroon are to provide accommodation for the refugees.

ROK: DPRK Summarily Executes Stowaway Returned by Russians

*SK2705115396 Seoul YONHAP in English
1027 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 27 (YONHAP) — North Korea summarily shot dead a North Korean man who tried to smuggle himself to Seoul with a forged South Korean passport last December, the NHK-TV of Japan reported Monday evening [27 May].

The report quoted Gov. Yevgeniy Nazdratenko of Russia's Maritime Province as telling a news conference Monday that the victim was one of the three North Korean men trying to go to Seoul from Vladivostok with fake South Korean passports.

The trio, according to the governor, were caught by Russian officials in Vladivostok, and later taken to a Korea-Russia border area for transfer to the North.

When the first of the three were turned over to the North, North Korean officials shot him dead at the spot in the presence of Russian border troops.

Shocked at the summary execution, Russian officials refused to yield the remaining two and brought them back to a Vladivostok prison.

Gov. Nazdratenko did not say what had become of the two North Korean prisoners afterward, the NHK-TV added.

ROK: Air Force To Found New F-16 Combat Wing on 1 Dec

*SK2605115196 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network
in Korean 1200 GMT 23 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The 20th Air Force Combat Wing, which will be equipped with the strongest air combat capabilities in the ROK, will be founded in South Chungchong Province on 1 December. F-16 fighters being assembled in the ROK since November 1995 under the ROK Air Force's next-generation fighter program, will be successively deployed to the combat wing. The founding of the new combat wing will significantly improve the air defense capabilities of the west coast areas, which have been considered comparatively weak.

Burma

Burma: Finance Minister on Possible U.S. Sanctions
BK2805052496 Bangkok ASIA TIMES in English
28 May 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Stephen Brookes in Rangoon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Myanmar's [Burma's] finance minister said on Monday he was unconcerned about possible trade sanctions by the United States, following the military government's detention of hundreds of pro-democracy activists in the past week.

"We are not bothered by any boycott," said Minister for Finance and Revenue Brigadier General Win Tin. "It has no effect on our economy."

"The Americans may try to block our country but they'll try in vain," he said. "We have our own resources. We have been isolated since 1988 and we have grown with our own resources. So we are not worried about this."

Support for punitive actions appeared to be growing in the United States as the convention staged by the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) moved into its second day on Monday. The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) attempted last week to pre-empt the convention by detaining more than 250 people, including most of the invited delegates.

Nevertheless the convention, marking the sixth anniversary of elections in which the NLD won 82 percent of the seats but was not allowed to form a government, went ahead on schedule with promises by the group to continue holding meetings.

The United States, Japan, Britain, Germany, France and Australia have denounced the military crackdown, as has South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, himself a former dissident.

The White House has announced plans to send a special envoy to Europe and Asia to try to coordinate a response.

The finance minister castigated Aung San Suu Kyi, the NLD leader, for trying to dissuade foreign companies from investing in Myanmar. Suu Kyi said recently that foreign investors should "jolly well wait" until a democratic government was installed.

"If she loved the country, if she were patriotic, she ought to invite the foreigners to invest here," Win Tin said. "Now she's opposing this. We have very good stability, safety and good security. She cannot disrupt the economy because she has only a minority group. All the businessmen, all our nation, believes in the SLORC's achievements."

The official press was also defiant in the face of possible new United States sanctions, noting that with the end of the Cold War, "only one bloc is left without any balancing power to deter its interference in the affairs of other nations".

But the state media appeared to take a mixed line on the NLD conference, noting in one article that it would be "annihilated" if it continued opposing the government, and in another addressing Suu Kyi respectfully and seeming to encourage the possibility of a dialogue.

Nevertheless, the attacks against foreign interference appeared to be mounting. Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, whose title is Secretary One of SLORC, said in a speech on Sunday the country could "disappear" if it came under the influence of foreign powers.

While not referring to the NLD directly, he told students at Yangon University: "There is a group of persons in Myanmar swaying to the enticement of a big nation which is attempting to bring Myanmar under its influence in the pretext of democracy and human rights."

Those people, he added, "see the bait but not the hook."

Burma: Editorial Calls Aung San Suu Kyi 'Puppet of the West'

BK2805070396 Hong Kong AFP in English
0638 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RANGOON, May 28 (AFP) — Burma's military junta on Tuesday denounced opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and said some 100,000 people had turned out in rallies across the country in support of the government.

Aung San Suu Kyi was a "puppet" of the West bent on destroying national stability as part of a foreign plot to bring down the government, the official English-language New Light of Myanmar said in an editorial.

The newspaper carried reports of rallies by almost 100,000 people across the country in support of the military authorities, apparently in reaction to recent shows of support for Aung San Suu Kyi.

Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition National League for Democracy [NLD] would up a three-day congress here Tuesday, which the authorities tried to scuttle by arresting some 262 NLD activists.

Some 5,000 people rallied in front of Aung San Suu Kyi's house on Saturday in a show of support for the landmark meeting. The crowd doubled to 10,000 on Sunday after the meeting had opened.

The New Light of Myanmar said some 40,000 people rallied outside Rangoon "in support of development

efforts and denouncing subversives," while another 58,000 people turned out in Pegu, about 150 kilometers (100 miles) north of the capital.

Aung San Suu Kyi told reporters both rallies were organized by the authorities, and said their messages were "awash with hatred and vindictiveness."

The newspaper quoted organizers as saying that unidentified "minions ... with foreign masters" were trying to destabilize the country and destroy the government's development efforts.

The organizers urged the Burmese people to "unitedly crush destructionists ... who are trying to destabilize the nation and create riots under the influence of foreign masters."

The articles attacking Aung San Suu Kyi in the press Tuesday came a day after an apparently conciliatory message to the opposition leader in a Burmese-language newspaper.

The article said reconciliation would be easier to achieve if Aung San Suu Kyi was more "objective" with regard to her political demands.

It said dialogue would come if the NLD would "build national reconciliation with a [word indistinct] spirit," but the article warned against forcing the authorities into a corner.

Burma: NLD Members Reportedly Fleeing to KNU's Protection

BK2505105896 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 25 May 96 p A2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — Members of Burma's persecuted National League for Democracy (NLD) who have not been arrested in the military regime's latest round-up have fled to the protection of Karen National Union (KNU) guerrilla forces.

During the last week an unknown number of NLD members and sympathizers, estimated at over 200, have been arrested and detained in what is generally seen as a move by the SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council) to thwart a major party conference due to start on Sunday.

NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday vowed to push ahead with the meeting, which is to take place at her Rangoon home.

The KNU, which seeks autonomy, is the largest ethnic minority group still at war with the SLORC. According to reliable reports, every time the regime imposes tough

measures against its democratic opposition, some more defect to the KNU.

The NLD won by a landslide in democratic elections called by an over-confident SLORC in 1990. The dictatorship ignored the results and stayed in place.

At the time of the elections, Suu Kyi had had to resign from party leadership as she had been put under house arrest the year before. She was finally released last July and resumed her role at the head of Burma's largest opposition party.

Sunday's planned conference is to mark the sixth anniversary of the elections. It is also the first since Suu Kyi's release.

Meanwhile, Kyaw Kyaw, deputy chairman of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), yesterday accused the SLORC of distorting the facts.

The military government announced it had captured only 191 NLD members who were elected in 1990. Another 20 dissident students were left out, he said.

Burma: Official Paper: Aung San Suu Kyi 'Democracy Sorceress'

LD2505111996 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Burma's military regime has accused opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi of being power crazy and bent on destroying the stability of the country. An editorial in the official NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR [BURMA] newspaper says if what it calls the democracy sorceress and her gangsters succeed in their aims the social life of Burma, including education and commerce, would be spoilt. The latest attack comes on the eve of the planned meeting by the National League for Democracy (NLD) to mark the anniversary of the party's overwhelming election victory six years ago, which has never been recognized by the military. The authorities have detained more than 220 NLD activists to try to prevent tomorrow's convention proceeding. Miss Suu Kyi says the NLD will not allow the detentions to scupper the meet and she and the Central Committee are prepared for possible arrests.

Burma: Military Regime Calls Suu Kyi 'Power Crazy'

BK2505120396 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Burma's military regime has accused opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi of being power crazy and bent on destroying the stability of the country.

An editorial in the official NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR newspaper says if what it calls a democracy sorceress and her gangsters succeed in their aims, the social life of Burma—including education and commerce—will be spoiled. The latest attack comes on the eve of a planned meeting by the National League for Democracy (NLD) to mark the anniversary of the party's overwhelming election victory six years ago, which has never been recognized by the military.

Authorities have detained more than 220 NLD activists to try to prevent tomorrow's convention proceedings. Miss Suu Kyi says the NLD will not allow the detentions to scuttle the meeting, and she and the central committee are prepared for possible arrest.

Burma: 'Government in Exile' Reports Death of NLD Detainees

BK2505120696 Hong Kong AFP in English
1139 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BANGKOK, May 2 (AFP)—The Burmese opposition's self-styled government in exile alleged Saturday that one of the pro-democracy activists picked up by the junta in Burma since Monday has died in custody.

The statement from the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) gave no details of the reported death of Mya Haing, who won election in the abortive 1990 polls as a candidate of the National League for Democracy (NLD).

In Rangoon, NLD sources said they had no confirmation of the reported death.

The junta has taken at least 224 activists in for questioning since Monday in an effort to thwart plans for an NLD meeting marking the sixth anniversary of the general elections.

Burma: Suu Kyi to Supporters: Pro-Democracy Meeting To Proceed

BK2505124096 Hong Kong AFP in English
1222 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RANGOON, May 25 (AFP)—A defiant Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi pledged to cheering supporters Saturday that a key pro-democracy meeting would press on despite a wave of detentions of activists from her National League for Democracy (NLD).

Speaking to some 5,000 enthusiastic supporters waiting outside her lakeside compound despite a drizzle, the charismatic opposition leader said 256 NLD activists had been detained since Monday.

The detentions came ahead of a meeting of NLD candidates who won seats in elections six years ago swept by the NLD but which were not honored by the ruling military junta.

"The NLD has decided to hold this anniversary meeting and we will go on with this meeting in one form or another," Aung San Suu Kyi said to enthusiastic applause.

Expectations of a show down between the opposition and junta have been high in the Burmese capital ahead of the meeting Sunday, and analysts said Aung San Suu Kyi's remarks showed "she had taken her gloves off."

They said Aung San Suu Kyi's speech, in which she said the opposition could no longer afford to wait for the government to offer it an olive branch, was her most defiant in recent months.

"We have done nothing for six years but now we must try to reach our objectives and not sit down and wait for dialogue," she said.

"With the support of the people, we will march on towards our goal of democracy, and that goal is not as far away as it seems to be," she added.

Aung San Suu Kyi said that of the detained, 232 were elected representatives, while the others were members of NLD youth groups or affiliated in other ways with the party.

However, she added that the number was expected to be much higher as news had yet to filter in from NLD posts in more distant states.

Several NLD activists are said to be already taking shelter in Aung San Suu Kyi's lakeside compound where the conference is to take place.

Analysts here say the military junta has been put in a very difficult position. Allowing the NLD to meet would enhance the party's legitimacy, while a crackdown would have serious international repercussions for a government desperately trying to attract investment from abroad.

Fears that the junta would barricade the road outside her house proved unfounded, and regulars at her weekend addresses said this was perhaps one of the largest since her release from house arrest in July.

The junta has tried to put the best face on the detentions by pressing ahead with an international business conference here and plastering accounts of deals signed with foreign companies across the front pages of the official press.

However, the state-run media has also run a long string of diatribes against Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD in the past few days, accusing them of being "power crazy" and bent on destroying the stability of the country.

"If the democracy sorceress and her gangsters succeed in their bid, urban and rural tranquility, peaceful pursuit of education, commercial dealings ... all peaceful social life of the people would be spoilt," the English language *New Light of Myanmar* said in an editorial Saturday.

Aung San Suu Kyi has said that no NLD central committee members have been picked up for questioning yet, but added that all, including herself, were prepared for that eventuality.

The military authorities have acknowledged the detentions, which they have called a "pre-emptive" strike against the conference aimed at preventing a breakdown in law and order.

The wave of detentions has brought strong condemnations from Australia, Britain, Japan and the United States, as well as more cautious criticism from some Asian countries.

Burma: 'Defiant' Suu Kyi Opens NLD Congress Despite Crackdown

BK2605091596 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 26 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A defiant Burmese opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, has opened a meeting of her democracy party in the capital, Rangoon, despite the detention of the majority of politicians due to attend. More than 250 of 300 National League for Democracy [NLD] elected representatives have been detained since Monday in the military government's most sweeping crackdown against the opposition since 1990. The crackdown followed Suu Kyi's call for a conference of her party members. Addressing the gathering, Suu Kyi said the meeting was originally intended to be a meeting of elected representatives of the NLD, but the agenda had to be changed as a result of the wave of detentions. She announced that the meeting was instead the first of a series of party congresses the NLD would hold in defiance of the military junta. From Rangoon Evan Williams filed this report:

[Begin recording] Suu Kyi says the meeting's main message is to reaffirm the 1990 election result her party won remains valid and always will. Despite being badly weakened by the arrest of scores of party MP's and supporters, the meeting itself was not interrupted by any government action. It is the first opposition congress to form opposition policy on the economy, politics, human

rights, and a new constitution — all areas the military government vigorously defends as its own.

While it reaffirms the NLD's (?support as) the party to run Burma, it is hard to see how the policies will have any impact when there is no official dialogue with the government but Suu Kyi says this is just the first of many such opposition policy meetings. That could strike some form of talks or possibly a harsher crackdown as the regime [words indistinct] gathering of what some dub the alternative or legitimate parliament. [end recording]

Burma: Khin Nyunt Comments on Superpower's 'Instigation'

BK2605162496 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Myanmar [Burma] Education Committee and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], attended and delivered an address at the Mandalay Hall's education funds and award presentation ceremonies held at the Mandalay Hall's Room 108 in the Yangon [Rangoon] University at 0815 today.

In his address SLORC Secretary-1 Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt said: The united efforts of the former students of Mandalay Hall to present educational funds to a new generation of students is noble work. [passage omitted on future education funds]

While meeting today's new generation of students I would like to talk about international affairs. Formerly, the two world's powerful blocs resolved international affairs while maintaining their balance of power. They didn't reach to extreme resolutions in resolving affairs because neither side could act in partiality or dictate matters. Today one of the blocs that tried to transform from one system to another in haste came under the direction and management of the other bloc and was disintegrated. Now there is only one powerful bloc and there are no other blocs to control this powerful bloc's manipulation. That is why, this bloc — wanting to be a superpower — is trying to control small developing countries, and so far many countries have come under the influence of this bloc.

The Myanmar people can never forget the misfortune of Myanmar under more than 100 years of servitude, and they also realize that their country will disappear if it comes under the influence of others. The Union of Myanmar is a union that is comprised of national races so there is always a threat from plans to disintegrate the Union by creating discord among the nation's races.

That is why, state leaders with great tradition established the national consolidation to prevent the Union from disintegrating, and have continuously defended the long-term existence of the Union of Myanmar.

The Western bloc is always trying to get Myanmar under its influence because Myanmar is located strategically in Southeast Asia. While properly observing the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Myanmar is maintaining relations with the international community. Myanmar is especially cooperating with neighboring countries and ASEAN nations in a friendly manner. There is a group in the country that is being deceived by the instigation from a country that wants to be a superpower and that uses democracy, and human rights as a pretext to get Myanmar become under its influence. This group that sees only the bait but not the hook, that thinks only about becoming rich and prosperous, that predicts that Myanmar will prosper and become rich like that country in a short time, that ignores the conditions of Myanmar and other neighboring countries, and that accepts other's deception as reality is following the path it has been shown.

Due to the intrusions, Myanmar with its own kingdom for thousands of years faced misfortunes and came under servitude but Myanmar gained independence through the unity of the national races. This is why it is necessary for all Myanmar to nurture the spirit to never become servile or to fall under the influence of others.

He also urged the new generation of students to have the spirit to build the country on a self-reliant basis and to have full conviction that they will never let the country become servile again, and will never let Myanmar become dependent and fall under the influence of others, and that they will uphold three national causes when they become future leaders of the country.

Burma: Aung San Suu Kyi Extends Invitation for Reconciliation

BK2705063496 *Melbourne Radio Australia*
in English 0500 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Burma's opposition party, the National League for Democracy [NLD], has vowed to increase the pace of its struggle for democracy. Party leader Aung San Suu Kyi told a cheering crowd of about 10,000 people outside her Rangoon house the party will not bend to pressure from the military junta but will push towards its goal of democracy for Burma.

[Begin Aung San Suu Kyi recording] Since the 1990 elections the people of Burma have suffered greatly for lack of democratic rights. That is why the desire for democracy is stronger now than it was six years ago, and for that reason the National League for Democracy

has decided to increase our actions to fulfill the will of the people and to bring about national reconciliation. In our increased opportunities, we invite not only the people of the country but also the authorities to join us, because that is the only way we can bring good and happiness to our land. [end recording]

Burma: Government Issues 'Conditional Invitation' for Dialogue

LD2705095596 *Melbourne Radio Australia*
in English 0900 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The military government in Burma has issued a conditional invitation for dialogue with the leader of the opposition National League for Democracy [NLD], Aung San Suu Kyi. [passage omitted]

Evan Williams reports from Rangoon.

[Williams] In a significant break from the usual derogatory, anti-Suu Kyi propaganda, Burma's SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] regime has published in state-controlled, Burmese-language newspapers a polite explanation of why it has not yet agreed to dialogue. In theory, it says, it welcomes dialogue, but says there are two ways forward. One would have one party annihilated, the other would involve the army's participation in national politics, because Burma is politically immature. It urges Daw Suu to declare which she wants and to reaffirm her statement on release that the army's political role was open to negotiation. Suu Kyi has lately said that is up to the people.

The regime's tone is new, but there appears no change in its fundamental position and it is issued with tough warnings of long-term trouble if the opposition adopts domestic and international pressure to achieve its goals.

Burma: Rallies Support Government Acts, Denounce Destructionists

BK2705160496 *Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese*
1330 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] People from East Yangon [Rangoon] District held a mass rally to support the government's constructive development works and to denounce destructionists at the South Dagon Myothit Township's Sports Grounds this morning. The rally was attended by about 40,000 people from 14 townships. [passage omitted on breakdown of attendance]

The rally began at 0740. U Kaung Nyunt, rector of Dagon University from East Dagon Myothit Township, acted as chairman of the meeting while U Than from South Dagon Myothit Township, U Ne Myo from Thingangyun Township, U Aung Kyaing from North

Dagon Myothit Township, and U Zaw Maung from South Okkalapa Township acted as panel members. U Khin Zaw from North Okkalapa Township acted as secretary to the meeting while U Kyi Tun from Thingangyun Township acted as additional secretary.

The secretary announced the commencement of the ceremony after which U Kaung Nyunt, rector of Dagon University, delivered an address. [passage omitted on praising the government's development achievements]

Just as the momentum of constructive development is being achieved the instigation to cause instability and unrest by destructive elements has become very intolerable. That is why, the people have turned out en masse today to support the government's constructive development works and to denounce the destructionists.

Dear people. I finally urged those present here to unitedly denounce the foreign-influenced destructionists, who hamper the nation's growth and stability and cause unrest and destruction. [passage omitted on the motion and support and a similar ceremony in Pegu]

Burma: Aung San Suu Kyi: 'Soft-Line Approaches' Not Working

*BK2805072696 Hong Kong AFP in English
0717 GMT 28 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RANGOON, May 28 (AFP) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Tuesday that a wave of detentions of pro-democracy activists pointed to the failure of soft-line approaches to the junta taken by neighboring countries.

"ASEAN countries have taken the view that constructive engagement is the best way to bring about change," she told a press conference in her lakeside compound. "I think it is now time to admit that change in the right direction has not taken place," she said.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has adopted the policy of constructive engagement based on the idea that gradually drawing Burma into the international fold was the best way of bringing about democratic reform.

At least 262 NLD [National League for Democracy] activists were detained in the run up to one of the most important pro-democracy meetings since the abortive 1990 elections in a measure the authorities said was taken to prevent a breakdown of law and order.

Aung San Suu Kyi said that the situation in Burma also represented a threat to stability in other countries, making it all the more necessary for foreign governments to exert pressure on the junta.

"We believe threats to justice anywhere are threats to justice everywhere and as long as there is injustice and

instability in Burma, it will constitute a threat to justice and stability in the whole region," she said.

The ASEAN countries — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — are steadfast in their refusal to comment on the internal affairs of other countries. The detentions have been roundly condemned by many Western governments, particularly the United States, as well as some Asian countries such as South Korea and Japan.

Aung San Suu Kyi has repeatedly called on foreign investors to stay away from Burma until reform was effected, and appealed to foreign governments not to hand out aid packages to the junta.

The military authorities have begun referring to Aung San Suu Kyi in the local press as a puppet of foreign governments wanting to exert their influences in Burma.

Burma: NLD Ends 3-Day Congress, Calls For Prisoners' Release

*BK2805081496 Hong Kong AFP in English
0800 GMT 28 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RANGOON, May 28 (AFP) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy [NLD] ended a three-day party congress on Tuesday, asserting they were the legitimate representatives of the people and calling for the release of political prisoners.

Aung San Suu Kyi said the party congress, which has been overshadowed by the arrests of 262 NLD activists, had adopted a wide range of policies ranging from the economy to a new constitution.

However, she said the main message coming from the three-day congress was an assertion that NLD candidates who won seats in the 1990 elections were the legitimate representatives of the people.

"Parliament should be supreme and ... must be made up only of the elected representatives of the people, she said. "We believe in an independent judiciary and also believe that the nation should be based on the agreement of all the people of the union."

She also said the party would demand that the ruling military junta release all political prisoners as well as those detained in connection with the congress.

At least 233 elected NLD representatives were among the detained in a military sweep ahead of the congress, which was originally aimed at bringing them together to mark the sixth anniversary of the elections.

The military junta oversaw the 1990 polls, which were overwhelmingly won by the NLD, but ignored the

results and now says the terms of those elected has already expired.

"We regard the terms of the elected representatives as valid until such time that parliament has met and decided what their term of office is going to be," Aung San Suu Kyi said.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate stressed the importance of the military in the life of the nation, but said the people of Burma should decide themselves on the role of the armed forces in politics.

"The armed forces should be an honorable institution which would take care of the defence of the nation and which would help bring about democracy," she said.

Burma: NLD Congress Repeats Call for Dialogue With Government

*LD2805090096 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0800 GMT 28 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Burma's opposition National League for Democracy [NLD] has ended a congress in Rangoon with its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, repeating a call for dialogue with the military government. The NLD also reaffirmed that it wants an elected parliament with no political role for the military but it is open to negotiations. [passage omitted]

More from Evan Williams in Rangoon:

[Williams] In a provocative move directly opposing the military's own plans for retaining substantial power, the NLD executive will draft its own new constitution for a new Union of Burma. It also calls for a supreme parliament comprising only elected MPs but opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi indicates the door is still open for negotiations on some form of power sharing if dialogue with the military regime at least starts.

The congress of some 250 elected MPs and party members called for immediate dialogue with the army, freedom of political work, and the release of all political prisoners, including more than 260 detained in a bid to stop this meeting.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysia: Mahathir Returns From Working Visits Overseas

*BK2405131896 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television
Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 24 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed returned home today after complet-

ing a 12-day working visit to Japan, the United States, and Great Britain.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim, several cabinet ministers and deputy ministers were at the Sultan Abdul Aziz International Airport, Subang to welcome him upon his arrival.

Malaysia: Prime Minister Mahathir Meets Kazakh President

*BK2705072396 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television
Network 3 in Malay 0530 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed paid a courtesy call on Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev at the Carcosa Sri Negara [State Guesthouse] in Kuala Lumpur today. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir was accompanied by his wife Datin Sri Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali during the 45-minute meeting. Datuk Hamid Osman, minister in the Prime Minister's Department, was also present in his capacity as minister-in-attendance. The Kazakh leader arrived in the nation's capital yesterday on a four-day visit to Malaysia.

Earlier, President Nazarbayev and his wife were given an official welcoming ceremony at Parliament Ground. They were greeted by Paramount Ruler Tuanku Jaafar and his consort Tuanku Najihah. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim were also present.

President Nazarbayev later inspected a guard of honor comprising 111 officers and men of the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment, led by Major Noor Azmi Abdul Karim. The president was introduced to cabinet ministers and foreign representatives.

Malaysia: Mahathir, Kazakh Leader Sign Pacts To Upgrade Ties

*BK2805090596 Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 28 May 96 p 2*

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuala Lumpur, 27 May — Malaysia and Kazakhstan today upgraded their bilateral relations by signing three agreements in the economy, science and technology, and trade and investment sectors.

Another four agreements, including the rescinding of visas between the two countries, are expected to be signed during Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed's upcoming visit to the republic at the end of this year.

In addition, three other agreements were also concluded, including an agreement on air services, avoidance of double taxation, and also the rescinding of other bilateral tariffs.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the visit by the Kazakhstan delegation here had resulted in a great deal of cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking to reporters after the signing ceremony at the Prime Minister's Department this afternoon, which was witnessed by Dr. Mahathir and Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the foreign minister said: "The agreements are expected to bring about better returns in connection with the country's balance of trade, which currently stands at only RM11.5 million [Malaysian currency]."

Abdullah said that Kazakhstan had offered Malaysia several construction projects in the country during the talks between the two leaders.

According to the minister, Kazakhstan has also expressed its desire to conduct a study on Malaysia's industrial development and the development of its air services.

Malaysia: Daily Praises Military Assistance to Bosnia

BK2705142896 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 27 May 96

[“Comment” Column by V.K. Chin: “Arming the Bosnians — Just In Case”; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The American-sponsored Dayton accord which has brought temporary peace to Bosnia Herzegovina is being seen as unlikely to last for very long. While the parties involved in the dispute had signed the agreement, the situation is still very fragile.

The best indication of the accord being broken is the call by U.S. President Bill Clinton to several governments to contribute towards arming and training the Bosnian security forces in case fighting should break out again with the withdrawal of the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) by the end of the year.

The bitterness and hatred existing between the Bosnians and the Serbs are too deep to be papered over by just a piece of document. Even under the IFOR supervision, there had been incidents of trouble as each group returned to their respective areas.

Malaysia was one of the countries approached by Clinton to help the Bosnians and Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed had no hesitation in committing RM [Malaysian ringgit] 25 million for this purpose af-

ter the brief between the two leaders in Washington last week.

Malaysia's ready response is to be expected as it has been at the forefront in championing the Bosnian's cause since ethnic cleansing by the Serbian forces started some four years ago.

Dr. Mahathir has always called for the arming of the Bosnian military forces ever since the fighting broke out. Due to their lack of proper weapons, the Bosnian Muslims had been massacred, raped and driven out of their homes during the bitter conflict.

European powers, namely the United Kingdom, had steadfastly refused to arm the Bosnians even though the most inhuman acts were committed against not only their men, but their women and children as well.

It was mostly the objection of the Major administration that had stopped the others, especially the Americans, from providing military assistance openly to the Bosnians to protect themselves.

It was such a one-sided conflict that only those who suffered from the Mad Cow disease would deny such military help to the Bosnians who were being slaughtered like cattle by the well-armed Serbian forces.

With Clinton coming out openly to support a plan to raise funds to arm and train the Bosnian military forces to prepare for another conflict, governments which have been approached, and even some of those which have not been contacted, should do their bit to ensure the security and safety of the Bosnians.

History should not be allowed to repeat itself and if there should be another round of fighting, which many people have not ruled out, then the participants must be prepared for it. The attitude displayed by some of the Serbian leaders shows clearly too that they are not prepared to accept the Dayton peace accord and in fact have ignored the many conditions which have been agreed to.

Any betting man would definite put his money on trouble breaking out the moment the IFOR forces leave on completion of their work. Their presence has ensured an uneasy peace and the familiar sound of gunfire is likely to continue with their departure.

Cambodia

Cambodia: Ranariddh Urges 'National Reconciliation'

BK2405150796 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian
1100 GMT 24 May 96

[Speech by Cambodian First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh at the inauguration of school buildings in Boeng Trav commune, Mongkolborei District, Banteay Meanchey Province on 24 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted — Ranariddh greeting those present, thanking donors, and referring to king's message to him about returning to Cambodia covered by referent item] Today, I am very happy and have the great honor to inform all the venerable monks and all the grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts that although his majesty is not healthy enough and might not be able to come in person to visit his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren here or in Banteay Meanchey Province because he is very busy, he asked me to convey his best regards to all the venerable monks and especially his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He misses you very much.

He has always asked the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the prime ministers to do anything possible to provide peace and security; to provide things worthy of the people's trust; and not to do anything that may alarm the people. As leaders, we must do anything possible to provide happiness to the people. It is not right for us to use violent words and so forth, because our Cambodian people have suffered for over two decades due to war and conflict. That should be enough; that suffering should be enough. What our people want most now is peace and happiness. [applause]

Peace and happiness are possible only when all national leaders and all big parties resolutely strive for national reunification and reconciliation. If we just pay lip service to national reunification and reconciliation while there are all sorts of threats and discord, the people will not trust us, now or in the future. [applause]

Therefore, I know what all the grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts who are present here in the sun want to hear. You want to hear about national reconciliation and reunification and harmony with one another so as to provide peace and happiness. Without peace, we will definitely not be able to develop the country. This school that we built so beautifully, the bridge that we have just built... [pauses] If war or fighting in whatever

form touches the Kingdom again, all the good achievements will be ruined again.

This is why all patriotic Cambodians must absolutely avoid disputes with fellow Cambodians. Whenever Cambodians stop quarreling, we will be strong. Whenever we Cambodians are strong, foreign countries that used to try to swallow our country will respect us. Therefore, as first prime minister; as the son of the king father, grandfather, and great grandfather; as chairman of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], I pledge solemnly to the national community, all monks, and all brothers and sisters here that we will make resolute efforts to avoid disputes with our fellows. There will be only national reconciliation and reunification and support for his majesty the king's royal mission to develop and lead the country toward peace, happiness, and security. [applause]

I would like to turn to another point; that is, the restoration of national education. I have repeatedly talked in many places about the vital importance and usefulness of national education to the development of our beloved nation; our motherland. I have nothing else to add. I only want to recall that since the establishment of our sublime National Assembly, of a Royal Government born from our people's will... [pauses]

I think that in May 1993 [words indistinct] grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts must have arduously walked for many kilometers to cast your votes in 1993. Is that not right, grandmother? Did you go to vote? Please raise your hands to show me who went to vote. Oh, all of you went to vote.

Approximately 5 million signed up and 90 percent went to vote. As I just mentioned, the election, that free election organized by the United Nations, would not have been successful if our grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, and all our compatriots did not resolutely go to vote. Why did we go to vote? We voted to provide Cambodia with a political regime characterized by liberal democracy. If were just voting for the same old thing, there was no need to vote. Therefore, we all went to vote for the following reasons:

1. To bring peace and security to our nation; to tell all the leaders that quarreling for 20 years should be enough and that it should also be enough with the genocidal regime. Therefore, all monks, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts went to vote in large numbers in 1993 to convince the national and international leaders that we wanted change, to change from a state of war — strangling one another — to a state of peace,

security, national reconciliation, and national reunification.

Is that not right, grandmother? Right, to change from war to peace and security.

2. To change the political system. We want a political system characterized by liberal democracy like the developed countries around us. This is the second lesson of the 1993 election.

These two factors are important factors to ensure national development in all fields, especially education.

I would like once again to express profound thanks to all the generous people who donated personal funds not just for this place, but many other places throughout the Kingdom in line with the best opinion of our father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He has said that since our people and country are still poor, still do not have enough resources to restore everything in fields such as education, communications, and so forth, all our people inside and outside the country must join hands in national restoration and construction, such as in the education field as this structure proves. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to call on all brothers and sisters to please applaud all the generous people who helped build this beautiful school. [passage omitted on the construction of the bridge and projects to repair Route 5 and reading out donations to local people, school, and temple]

Cambodia: Sihanouk's Doctor Reports 'Favorable Prognosis'

*BK2505101996 Hong Kong AFP in English
0511 GMT 25 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PHNOM PENH, May 25 (AFP) — King Norodom Sihanouk's physician has given the monarch a favorable prognosis and ruled out the possibility of a stroke following a temporary fit of partial paralysis he suffered Friday in Beijing.

"The prognosis is extremely favorable," the king's personal doctor Georges Pathe wrote Friday in a letter from Paris to Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk released by the palace on Saturday.

Pathe agreed with diagnoses from Chinese doctors that ruled out a cerebral edema as the cause for the 73-year-old king's suffering numbness and being unable to move the left side of his body for about an hour on Friday.

The king was forced to cancel his scheduled return here next week, designed to calm tension in the fragile coalition government, because of the attack for which he received emergency medical treatment.

King Sihanouk's Chinese doctors have ordered him to remain in hospital under observation for at least a month.

Pathe said it was "by a miracle" that the "Transient Ischemic Attack" — or cerebral spasm — occurred in Beijing, where the king was preparing to undergo a cataract operation and where there are suitable medical facilities.

"The 'Transient Ischemique Attack' was of a very short duration," he wrote, adding that the king should begin taking an intravenous medicine (an anti-vasoconstrictor) that would keep his blood vessels, especially in his brain, from shrinking.

"Observation for arterial tension will be important," he said, adding that he had full confidence in the king's Chinese physicians.

Pathe also said that while on the medication the king should not attempt to do any work as head of state which he usually carries on from abroad by correspondence.

"I think that under the drip, the king should not write, as in the past, letters or messages," Pathe said.

King Sihanouk, who was recently diagnosed with a brain lesion, also suffers from arteriosclerosis, high-blood pressure and diabetes.

Cambodia: Radio Reports on Sihanouk's Health in Beijing

*BK2605104196 Phnom Penh National Radio of
Cambodia Network in Cambodian
0500 GMT 26 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The health of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia has improved following his admittance to Beijing hospital on Friday after he suffered a temporary fit of partial paralysis.

The king remains in Beijing for doctors to operate on him to remove an extensive cataract in his eye. He suffers from arteriosclerosis, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Doctors have diagnosed that he has cancer and a brain lesion.

Cambodia: Ranariddh on King's Health, Conflicts

BK2705123796

[FBIS Report] Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian at 0500 GMT on 27 May carries an 80-minute recorded address by First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh at the inauguration of school buildings at the Samdech Euv primary school in Kbal Kaoh village, Kaoh Dach commune, in Kandal

Province's Muk Kampul District on the morning of 27 May.

After customary greetings to those present, Ranariddh reports on the latest information he received from Beijing on King Norodom Sihanouk's health. Ranariddh reads a message from Queen Monineat Sihanouk, dated 26 May from Beijing, saying that "after the king's admission to hospital in Beijing and after being treated by Chinese specialist doctors, the king's health has improved. On the first day, the treatment included administering liquid medicine for six hours. On subsequent days, more medicine were administered but for shorter periods. Oral medicine was also given regularly. According to doctors, if the king's situation continues to improve, liquid medicine will be administered from between 10 and 15 days. Most importantly, the king has to have complete rest and should not be troubled."

Ranariddh then recalls the allround development and unity under the Sangkum Reas Niyum with King Sihanouk as leader since winning independence from France. He says that "because of our father and king and his efforts to unite the nation we have been able to provide peace, independence, and sovereignty to the country along with its territorial integrity. No one dares to grab our land." He goes on to recall events leading to the reestablishment of the monarchy, highlighting Sihanouk's contributions, whom he says "has saved the nation again." Ranariddh adds that as king and savior of the nation Sihanouk deserves reverence, as this is clearly spelled out in the Constitution.

Referring to his recent visit to a place near Udong District, Ranariddh says "the president of the reporters federation strongly criticized me for threatening reporters. The other day a reporter was murdered and some people insinuated that if I had not criticized newspapers, that reporter would not have been killed. I would like to take this opportunity to fully deny this. I am very lenient. I am not boasting. Newspapers have insulted me in a way I have never been insulted since I was born. I have neither replied nor taken any reporter to court." He reminded the people that "the Constitution has been adopted by all of us" and "has to be respected and protected."

Ranariddh then refers to and takes offense at a speech made by a local official earlier that made insinuations against the king. He says that this should not be allowed. He recalls statements of National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim calling for national reconciliation and unity and adds that "I follow Samdech Chea Sim. I am not for conflict. Also, district and provincial chiefs, please remember that I am the first prime minister. Not the second prime minister, but the first prime minister.

Therefore, please be informed that I am still prime minister. If you, provincial and district chiefs do not behave, I will ask His Excellencies Sar Kheng and Yu Hokkri [co-interior ministers] to deal with you. You are not reporters, you are government officials. From now on, things will be strict. Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng and Excellency Yu Hokkri, please apply the law clearly to avoid further misunderstanding. As far as docile persons go, no one is more docile than me."

Going back to Chea Sim's statements and the exchange of messages over the media which has resulted in a conflict between the leaders, Ranariddh says "Do not count on me to enter into a conflict. First, I am a Buddhist. Second, conflict would lead to the disappearance of the country." He adds that "I support Samdech Chairman Chea Sim's statements, and with your consent, I would like to applaud Samdech Chea Sim. [applause] District chiefs from the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], remember that Ranariddh is first prime minister, and that Samdech Chea Sim is CPP chairman. Therefore, do listen also to Samdech Chea Sim."

Referring to the suggestion that the people and the masses are ignorant, Ranariddh says: "If the people are ignorant I would not have been elected first prime minister, true or not? [applause] Those in charge of writing commentaries, take notes and write properly. You think I do not listen to or watch Cambodian television? Thank you for your presence today, officials from the Cambodian Radio Directorate. Please write properly. Do not be too biased. Do not think others are ignorant."

Going back to King Sihanouk, Ranariddh enters into a dialogue with the audience saying: "We all pray that the king recovers quickly from his illness and live to be over 100 years old to be the coolest shade for our people. Is not that so everyone? Do we respect our revered father? Will we allow a group of persons to degrade him? No. And, what does the Constitution say? The king is untouchable. So, will we allow some persons to denigrate the king? No. There you are. I have been criticized for doing this. I am only defending the Constitution and the father, not because he is my own father, but because he is the father of our entire Cambodian nation. If we are without him, beware of problems. Therefore, all of us, from top to bottom, show respect to him. Let's be clear on this. This is what I want to say."

The radio then is unheard for almost one minute. When it becomes audible again, Ranariddh is heard saying that "the monarchy issue is a big national issue. Therefore, I would like to again and again remind people that

Cambodia is strong when there is genuine national unity and reconciliation. When we are weak internally, we will be looked down upon abroad."

Ranariddh goes on. He says: "Now, please let me inform you about our Royal Government and the border issue — I no longer dare attribute this to myself for fear of being criticized again. The border issue in Svay Rieng has not yet been resolved. Not only has this issue not been resolved, the other day His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Neng [governor of Kompong Cham Province] reported that territory in Memot has now been encroached upon too, though it is not much, mind you. According to the report, it was some 50 meters or 500 meters, maybe 500 meters. Not a little, 500 meters. Even half a centimeter is a lot. This is 500 meters and along a 17-18 kilometer stretch. This is a lot. A solution is needed. The issue has not yet been resolved in Svay Rieng, and now Memot too. You have to be informed about this. I defend the Royal Government. The Royal Government sent a delegation for talks following the meeting the samdech second prime minister and I had with Vo Van Kiet, where we agreed to begin talks on the essence of the joint communique dated 17 January 1995. According to this communique, the two sides will not alter the current administration. The Yuon [Vietnam] has been informed of the Royal Government's stance. I have been told to use the word Vietnam rather than Yuon, but we have been accustomed to using Yuon, and as long as the border issue is not yet resolved Yuon will continue to be used. Some have said that we should not refer to a soup as Samlar Mechu Yuon but as Samlar Mechu Vietnam. Since we have been calling it Samlar Mechu Yuon, what is wrong by continuing to refer to it as that? According to the agreement dated 17 January 1995, the entire Royal Government stance is clear. Current means something, a situation that exists before 17 January. Anything before that date should not be altered, is that not so? Current means 17 January and no change should be made after that date. Now, only a year later, in January 1996, changes have been made. Vietnam has claimed that territory. Our delegation went to Vietnam a few days ago clearly indicating that we have not made any changes. (Ung Sien) led our delegation on behalf of the entire Royal Government. Vietnam agreed with us on the first day, but reneged on the next, saying that if Cambodians want to return to that land they should inform Vietnam that they want to go back to farm that land. How come? If we have to write and ask for permission to farm that land it means that we accept that the land belongs to Vietnam. Therefore, the stance of the Royal Government and its delegation is very clear. We cannot accept this absolutely. I am just reporting this to the nation. The issue has not been resolved in

Svay Rieng. Now, there is Memot. Why is this so? It is because we are internally weak.

"In 1993, when we set up the coalition government, both Thailand and Vietnam realized that Cambodians were united with our August Father coming back to lead the country and nation. They were afraid of us. Later, we showed them that we were divided. It is not even election day yet and we are already quarrelling among ourselves. But, let me tell you that I have not been involved in this quarrel. Please give me justice. Seeing that we are quarrelling, others say that we are weak. Along with the news that his majesty the king's health is not good, these people say that's it! So, why should they retreat?

"Therefore, let me inform you, the Royal Government, provincial and district chiefs, please consider the nation's problems first. Party or individual problems are not major problems. The nation's problems come first. As servants of the nation, if we do not raise these issues, the nation will be in ruin again. Let me remind you today. This is not done with Cambodians. [applause] I am very docile. Where can we retreat to? You tell me. You may not be able to enjoy what you have now."

Referring to the deputy provincial governor [from the CPP], who was making phone calls, Ranariddh says: "I'll reply to h.e. deputy provincial governor on the issue of market prices. He is now making phone calls. Do not hurry to report what is going on here. I have nothing to hide. Everything is being recorded. Just listen to me. Why report this over the phone? Come here and sit here like the others. It is more comfortable."

Ranariddh then goes on to remind people about the importance of unity saying that "if aggression is being committed against our nation from both sides, west and east, what would our nation become? I take this opportunity, when inaugurating this primary school, to remind you and the nation about the danger of disunity. If we do not clearly affirm this stance, there is no need to build schools, dig canals, or restore agriculture. We have been begging for 20 years. Now we no longer do this. We have produced enough for local consumption and even for export. H.E. Ing Kiet, there is no need to work hard building roads, there is no need to work hard restoring agriculture. There is no need to make efforts in education if all this is only to hand over the country to others. This is an issue I would like to have your permission to raise. Well, at times it is hard for me to keep it inside, but I am not at exploding point yet. Patience, patience. However, do not keep stepping on me."

Ranariddh then talks about the absence of district chiefs whenever he visits their localities. He says: "I would like

to remind the co-(interior) ministers. I am not elevating myself. I am very patient. Nowadays, during my visits, district chiefs are absent and only their deputies are present. Whenever Ranariddh comes, district chief are always busy. Please do not be too busy. I do not come often. I do not want people to be around me, let me tell you this. However, law is law. If we, leaders, do not implement the law properly, nobody will respect us in the future. Do not mess about. I would like to talk about this today."

Turning to members of the armed forces, Ranariddh says: "Officers and troops, even if you came from the former ANKI [independent Cambodian national army], the Sihanoukist group, the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF] and the National Police, I would like to tell you that you are not troops of any party or individual; you are not the police of any party or individual. For example, Kandal provincial governor Chak Sarik is a nominee of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]. This is true. The same goes for Kampot and Siem Reap Provinces, and so on. However, as prime minister, I would like to stress this today in front of the microphone and television cameras. Television staff be informed. My stance as first prime minister is this: Ranariddh and Hun Sen are equals, meaning they lead the nation together. Therefore, there is to be absolutely no division on this point. Please be clear on this issue. If you do not implement this, I will propose replacements to H.E. Sar Kheng. Do not say that you have not been warned, people from both FUNCINPEC and those who are not from FUNCINPEC. I am saying this in my name as prime minister. Any bias against the two prime ministers, once or twice, and I will write officially to their excellencies co- ministers for replacements. Please be informed. I am not nasty, but this is an issue relating to the Royal Government led by two prime ministers." [applause]

Ranariddh ends his speech talking about aid for the local population, including an agreement to change the name of the school to Samdech Euv school. He also informed the audience that he will visit the king for two days from tomorrow and warns radio and television editors and newspapers against reporting that he is fleeing the country.

Indonesia

Indonesia: Minister Rules Out Revision of National Car Policy

BK2705043996 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN
in Indonesian 25 May 96 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta, 25 May — Indonesia has rejected the proposal of the American Automobile Manufacturers Association [AAMA] that the national car policy set by the government through Presidential Directive No. 2/1996 be revised.

"We have no plan to revise the policy set by the government," Industry and Trade Minister Tunky Ariwibowo said after meeting AAMA President Andrew H. Card in Jakarta on Friday (24 May).

The AAMA, which groups Chrysler Corporation, Ford Motor Company, and General Motor Corporation, on Friday criticized Indonesia's national car policy.

During a news conference, the AAMA president described the Indonesian national car policy as discriminatory and inconsistent with global trade liberalization trends. [passage omitted]

According to the industry and trade minister, Indonesia will not hold any negotiations or talks on the AAMA's statement. Indonesia will only discuss a solution to the issue and the enhancement of trade and investment relations, particularly as far as the automotive industry is concerned.

Ariwibowo said it would be up to the United States whether or not to bring the Indonesian national car policy to the World Trade Organization.

According to the industry and trade minister, Indonesia does not feel any pressure or threat from developed countries that have exported their cars to the Indonesian market. [passage omitted]

Indonesia: Jakarta Rules Out Fuel Price Hikes, Devaluation

BK2805051696 Jakarta KOMPAS in English
28 May 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, KOMPAS Online — The Indonesian government will not raise the price of kerosene nor will it take steps to devalue the rupiah [RP], Secretary of State Mardiono told journalists at the State Palace on Monday (27 May).

The decision came in response to an agreement between the United Nations and Iraq which gives Iraq the right to sell oil, up to the value of US\$ 2 billion or about 700,000 barrels, on the world market. The agreement marked a withdrawal of a United Nations embargo on oil exports from Iraq in return for the purchase of medicines and basic necessities.

In 1986 when the price of oil jumped to US\$ 10 per barrel, the Indonesian government was forced to devalue the rupiah. I think the situation now is far different. Our economy is stronger, Mardiono stressed. We don't need to slam on the brakes. Good planning is needed to manage the economy. Previously such measures were required but now our economy is more organized and it is not necessary to take such drastic steps.

Indonesia now has sufficient development fund reserves to overcome such situations despite the fact that budget estimates set the price of oil at US\$16.5 per barrel.

Up until the 1992/93 [fiscal year] budget development reserves reached Rp 3.5 trillion. In the 1993/94 budget the government had used over Rp 1.770 trillion to meet the Rp 1,852.5 billion budget deficit. Development fund reserves are funds accumulated from budget surpluses over the years.

When asked about the World Bank's suggestion to increase the price of kerosene Mardiono said that's the view of other people. We are a sovereign country and can make our own decisions. The government has not seen reason to increase the price of kerosene.

Minister of Mining and Energy IB Sajana also said the government did not see any reason to increase the price of kerosene. The present price is appropriate given the present conditions, he told the press on Monday (27 May).

He said kerosene price rises were not the only way to increase national efficiency. Why are we always nervous about suggestion made from the outside. Involved bodies such as the parliament, PLN (the government electricity company) and Pertamina [State Oil and Gas Corporation] have yet to suggest increases in the price of kerosene or electricity rates, Sujana said.

The World Bank suggested kerosene price increases in view of the relatively low prices compared with other countries. Sujana said, however, the suggestion was not based on accurate data.

Indonesia: Suharto Receives Burkina Faso President

BK2705105396 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore today began a state visit to Indonesia at the invitation of President Suharto.

Here is Joko Saksono reporting on an official welcoming ceremony accorded to the state guest at the Merdeka Palace this morning.

[Begin Joko recording] Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore arrived at the Merdeka Palace several hours ago. Upon arrival, the state guest was greeted by President Suharto in a military ceremony with a 21-gun salute and the playing of the national anthems of the two countries. The two leaders proceeded to the Central Room of the Merdeka Palace after receiving full military honors. President Suharto introduced his counterpart to leaders of the highest state body and high state bodies. Afterwards, President Compaore paid a courtesy call on President Suharto at the Jepara Room of the palace. After the courtesy call, President Suharto took the Burkina Faso president to the State Guesthouse. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Indonesia: PDI Chief Assails Those Trying To Destroy Party

BK2705043196 Jakarta KOMPAS in English 27 May 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, KOMPAS Online — Chairman [Chairwoman] of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) Megawati Sukarnoputri criticized both internal and external forces which had attempted to destroy the existence and unity of the PDI.

There shouldn't be anyone who wants to divide, there shouldn't be anyone who wants to place different interests at odds, no one should pressure, no one should force, cause friction or disturbance, Megawati declared in front of 1,500 people at the closing ceremony of the 23rd celebrations of PDI in Jakarta on Sunday evening (26 May).

The simple celebration included a performance by puppeteer (dalang) Ki H Sujiwo Tejo who told the story of a leader who had come forth because of the divine decree placed in them.

Megawati reminded everyone to be on guard against deception and dirty political practices. She was particularly referring to PDI cadres who seemed intent on dividing the party for their own group interests.

It's difficult to believe that a PDI cadre is happier seeing their party divided. It's also naive to believe that people admit that they are PDI cadres but leave themselves open to be used by certain people or groups outside of PDI. They stir-up the situation and disturb our struggles so that we become weak and lose faith, Megawati said.

Megawati spoke of recent split in the party because of conflicting sets of interests. To all PDI members, PDI hopes we will all be cautious and compact. It's not necessary to take notice or be aggravated. What's necessary is to adopt a firm attitude and reject suggestion to have another congress, Megawati said in relation to an earlier controversial congress.

Megawati argued that the long-term aim of political guerrillas was to destroy unity and the independence of PDI as a model for development. She urged the public, especially PDI members and sympathizers, to maintain a high political awareness and safeguard national unity in the ranks of a successful 1997 election.

We hope to remain cautious and sensitive to threats, intimidation and discriminative actions until the point when consolation and gracious winds ease the situation, she said.

PDI will assist the government by reminding all civilians of their obligations to their nations as facilitators rather than active participants who disturb or weaken national stability. PDI also supports ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia] as a servant of society which exists in the name of all groups, she added.

Megawati also took the opportunity to invite all people referring to themselves as golongan putih (the white group) [those unaffiliated to any of the three existing sociopolitical groups] to align themselves with one of the election contestants which has a commitment to Pancasila democracy.

As the chairman of PDI, I want to tell you the PDI door is open ready to warmly receive all citizens, she said.

In her 20 page speech, Megawati explained the working program of PDI which places particular emphasis on poverty and the needs of the masses.

Philippines

Philippines: Manila Calls For Restraint in Burma

BK2805084296 Manila BUSINESS WORLD
in English 28 May 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok—Asian governments were mostly silent yesterday over the standoff between Myanmar's military rulers and the embattled democ-

racy movement. In the Philippines, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino said the government will not join the West in condemning the continued military crackdown. He said the government views the recent detention of democracy activists in Rangoon as an internal problem. "We believe it's an internal matter," Mr. Severino said, adding that the Philippines, like her colleagues in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), will stick to their "constructive engagement" policy towards the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). ASEAN, which groups together Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, has adopted a policy of constructive engagement to encourage economic and political reforms in Myanmar. "We do not want to interfere in Myanmar's internal problems," Mr. Severino said.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0800 GMT on 28 May reports that the Philippine Government has now made a statement on the situation in Burma.

AFP reports: "The Philippine government on Tuesday called for restraint between the ruling military junta and opposition forces in Burma, expressing concern that a showdown could disrupt peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

"In its first official comment, the Department of Foreign Affairs urged both sides to 'step up their efforts at national reconciliation in order to avoid the already tense situation from destabilizing the situation in Myanmar (Burma).'"

Philippines: APEC Moves Swiftly Towards Attainment of Goals

BK2705104996 Manila PNA in English
1218 GMT 26 May 96

[Report by Manuel S. Storre, Jr. — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lapu-lapu City, May 26 (PNA) — The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has moved swiftly toward attainment of its goals after the APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) 2 ended at the Mactan Shangri-la Hotel in Lapu-lapu City last Thursday.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Federico Macaranas, APEC SOM chair, who assessed the results of the four-day meeting, said during the press briefing that concerned Individual Action Plans (IAPs) were submitted by all the 18 member economies detailing their commitments to APEC goals.

The APEC member economies include Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China,

Hong Kong, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, and the United States of America.

All the members have expressed a vision for a prosperous Asia-Pacific through free trade and economic cooperation.

According to Macaranas, he was happy and surprised that all the 18 economies had submitted their IAPs during the Cebu meeting.

While the quality will be improved in the next few weeks and in the next few months, he said the efforts placed by member economies into the preparation of the plans are truly outstanding.

During the discussion of the Christchurch (New Zealand) Trade Ministers Meeting, he said mention was made of the fact of the need to recognize this as a very strong symbol of how Asia-Pacific is truly a dynamic region of the world and perhaps the engine of growth in the next century.

Macaranas said this year's series of meetings aim to consolidate all the IAPs for the 1996 Manila Action Plan for APEC (MAPA '96) which will implement the Osaka Agenda, the road map for the 1994 Bogor Declaration which targets free and open trade and investments in industrialized member economies by 2010 and in developing economies in 2020.

The MAPA, he said, will be finalized during the APEC Leaders Meeting in Subic on Nov. 23, 1996.

He said senior officials have agreed to conduct immediate further consultations on the IAPs through exchange of information and consultations in other APEC fora "to ensure transparency, promote confidence-building, and harness opportunities for learning from each other in the preparation of their own action plans."

Apart from the IAPs, Macaranas reported that bilateral partners were given maximum opportunities to consult with each other.

"This continuing process of consultation will be operational not only through Davao (for the SOM 3) but perhaps through Manila in October at SOM 4," he said.

At that time, he expressed hope, APEC senior officials would have prepared themselves for a consolidation of the IAPs with the other component of the Osaka Action Agenda's call for preparation, "And this is the collective action plan area," he explained.

Thailand

Thailand: Impact of New U.S. Textile Import Rules Noted

BK2705105696 Bangkok *THAN SETTHAKIT* in Thai 25-28 May 96 pp 1, 15

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a source in the garment exporters circle, on 1 July, the United States will begin enforcing the new garment import regulations. The major point in the new regulations concerns requirement for importers to show origin. This new regulations, already applied to Hong Kong and China, will prevent Thailand from exporting products manufactured in other countries into the United States under its own quotas. The source said the Commerce Ministry must negotiate new regulations with the United States to avert more problems for the Thai garment industry.

According to Bunthipa Simasakun, deputy director of the Foreign Trade Department, this is a big issue for garment exporting countries and Thailand cannot solve the problem alone. The meeting of International Textiles and Clothing Bureau in Bangkok during 20-24 May arrived at a conclusion on the issues to be discussed with the United States.

First, the United States will be asked to use the exporting date to calculate the quota, instead of the arrival date which will create many problems for products exported before July. This is because shipment takes up to two months. Second, as all exporting countries are in the process negotiating with the United States, the latter will be asked to postpone enforcement of the new regulations until the quotas for the various importing countries are settled. Third, the U.S. will be requested to postpone display the origin tags until clear guidelines are available.

The interpretations of the rule of origin regulations have confused exporters. For example, garments, pillow cases and bed sheets involve three production stages. U.S. customs officers are unable to say to which of the three stages the rule of origin should apply.

Moreover, there is the problem of supplying quota figures by the exporters. For example, Thailand sends its plain cloth to the EU to make garments. However, it has no way of knowing how much of the EU garments sent to the United States are made from Thai cloth or from somewhere else. However, The EU, requires Thailand to issue rule of origin documents, which are regarded as Thailand's quota. The dispute on this matter has not been resolved.

There is also a quota reduction problem and the problem about which quotas belong to what countries. Buntiphpa said: "Every country is encountering the same problems because there are no clear answers. Each country wants to negotiate with the United States. Thailand will negotiate with the U.S. on 11 and 12 June. The 4.4 rule of the textile-cloth agreement allows exporting countries to renegotiate quotas with the country whose altered regulations affect them adversely. Pakistan had succeeded in gaining an additional quota of one million pieces of bed sheets and pillow cases from the United States.

Thailand: Comments on ASEAN's Response Regarding Burma

BK2605132096 Bangkok THE NATION in English
26 May 96 p 2

[Report by Sonny Inbaraj: "Another Stock ASEAN Response on Burma"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A confrontation is looming between the military junta in Burma and the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) over a planned conference today scheduled to coincide with the sixth anniversary of the abortive 1990 national elections.

The regime, calling itself the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), has detained for "questioning" over 200 NLD members and supporters ahead of today's conference. Many were seized in their homes in the middle of the night or plucked off the street.

But the SLORC's moves have not dented the resolve of opposition leader and Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Suu Kyi said today's conference would go on even without the majority of its invited participants.

"I think the intention is to try and make it impossible for us to hold our conference," she said. "But we are still going to go ahead with our plans unless they make it physically impossible for us to do so."

Suu Kyi, who was released from six years of house arrest last July, also did not rule out the possibility that she and other top NLD members might be arrested before the start of the conference.

The arrests over the past three days in Rangoon, are a clear indication that the NLD has the backing of the Burmese people.

As Suu Kyi told a press conference on Friday: "We don't need to say anything to the outside world now. The outside world can see for itself that the SLORC is nervous. Two hundred to three hundred holding a conference, that's not even as big as a SLORC faction, and yet they got so nervous that they started rounding

people up. They are nervous because they know they do not have the support of the people of Burma."

The SLORC is showing its true colours and it comes as no surprise to us. Many people, however, thought that once Suu Kyi was released from house arrest SLORC would create some sort of situation where compromises could be worked out and perhaps there could be a transition to democracy. They were proved wrong over the past few days, with the military junta showing that under no circumstances is it going to recognise the results of the 1990 elections in which the NLD won the majority of seats.

This crackdown is the straw that breaks the camel's back and the international community is not going to bend over to give the benefit of the doubt to the military regime anymore. The world is watching, and little do the Burmese generals realise that by arresting the pro-democracy NLD members they have alienated many who were willing to give them a second chance. If Aung San Suu Kyi is re-arrested today the SLORC might as well write off its chances of dealing with the West, in particular the United States.

There is a piece of legislation pending in the U.S. Congress called the Burma Freedom and Democracy Act of 1995 which would prohibit American companies from investing in Burma and developing their infrastructure. If Suu Kyi is re-arrested, without doubt, the Burma Freedom and Democracy Act will sail through Congress.

Republican Senator Mitch McConnell in moving the bill said: "Foreign investment in Burma is directly supporting and strengthening the military junta. Each dollar that foreign companies bring into Burma serves to buy the guns, buy the bullets and pay the soldiers that are killing the Burmese people and keeping the rest of Burma oppressed."

"In Burma millions of people turned out to vote for Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy. The NLD claimed 82 per cent of the vote. The fact that they were robbed of the reward of free and fair elections defines America's opportunity and obligation," Senator McConnell added.

The Burma Freedom and Democracy Act is going to be taken up in the next few weeks in the Senate International Relations committee before moving on to Congress and it is still being debated at the Senate subcommittee level.

On Thursday, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the United States would explore further sanctions against Burma with Congress.

"We do not rule out further U.S. sanctions against Burma and we are ready to explore various measures with the Congress. What we want to do is to have an effective U.S. response," Burns said when issuing a travel advisory urging Americans not to go to Burma because of the crackdown.

There is a growing consensus in the U.S. that Burma is a place where its politicians can make a stand because it is not a country that is tied in with the American economy. So making a stand for democracy, on the part of the United States, would not injure the interests of many American citizens involved in trade with the SLORC regime — unlike China or Indonesia.

The response of ASEAN so far, to the on-going arrests in Burma, has been pathetic. ASEAN officials at a recent meeting, at the resort island of Langkawi in Malaysia, to develop the resource-rich Mekong basin — which includes part of Burma — said the recent arrests were "internal politics". "I don't think it is our business to question," Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, secretary-general of Malaysia's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

This was also echoed by Thailand, Burma's immediate neighbour. The arrest of NLD members was an internal affair, Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Suraphong Chaivanam said.

But can we expect anything out of the regional grouping, whose leaders just see the country with dollar signs in front of their eyes, and view Aung San Suu Kyi as a thorn in their side to bleed Burma dry. Perhaps a cue can be taken, when in 1991 Indonesian troops fired upon unarmed pro-democracy demonstrators in East Timor's capital of Dili. The stock ASEAN response was: "It was an internal affair."

There needs to be a brave admission by ASEAN that their so-called constructive engagement policy has failed to draw Burma back into the mainstream of the international civil community, and other means need to be explored to find a just and peaceful solution for the country.

Unless and until this is done, Burma will always be engulfed in a climate of fear perpetuated by an illegal government.

Thailand: ASEAN Urged To Recognize Suu Kyi's Legitimacy

BK2705061296 Bangkok THE NATION in English
27 May 96 p A4

[Article by Kawi Chongkitthawon: "Time Asean Recognized Suu Kyi's Legitimacy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Japan and Asean are emerging as the most important foreign influences on the future course of Burma. Japan's generous financial and humanitarian assistance and Asean's unconditional political support have permitted the military regime, officially called the State Law and Order Restoration Council, or Slorc, to consolidate its position and withstand mounting pressure from the West since 1988.

The release of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi last July manifested Slorc's increased confidence in its ability to handle domestic problems as it moved to brush up its international image and improve ties with the countries in the region, especially Asean states. Growing confidence, or perhaps arrogance, subsequently convinced Slorc leaders that they could preempt yesterday's National League of Democracy meeting by detention more than 250 of its members.

Of all the countries, Tokyo is best-placed to ensure that Slorc does not incarcerate the opposition because the Slorc leaders have good relations with Japan and that country's politicians. Before Suu Kyi was freed, the Japanese embassy was the only country to be informed in advance.

It was not surprising that Japan was the first country to resume the so-called "Humanitarian aid" to Slorc immediately after her release. Last year, Tokyo gave US\$15.4 million (385 million baht) to Rangoon. Tokyo stopped its official aid to Burma after the 1988 coup but lifted the freeze last July and offered grants-in-aid for programmed in nurse training.

Before 1993, countries like the US, Australia and Canada, and the European Union were critical of Slorc. They had called for trade sanctions against the regime which refused to surrender power after losing the election in May 1990 and stands accused of committing mass violations of human rights. Their attitudes have somewhat softened mainly because of lobbying from Asean that the situation would be better tackled by Slorc and the Burmese people as well as countries in the region.

Sad but true, Asean has succeeded to a certain extent in the past three years in bringing Slorc out of its cocoon and encouraging it to participate in various activities.

Burma, through Asean's encouragement, attended numerous seminars on trade and economic and political and security cooperation. The Slorc leadership's coming out culminated with its attendance at a meeting for the head of governments of Asean, Laos and Cambodia. Burma also signed the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone last December. In return, trade and investment between Burma and individual Asean members has grown considerably.

Asean hopes that with repeated exposure and increased investment, Slorc will change for the better. That has not happened yet. Rangoon has conceded little in the areas of democratization and human rights. That explained why Thailand, one of the strongest supporters of Slorc, took a different line this time. Foreign Ministry spokesman Suraphong Chaiyanam minced no words when he said Thailand was concerned with last week's developments. He said the arrests were considered counter-productive to the democratisation and national reconciliation process in Burma.

Whether Thailand's tough response will prompt support from other Asean members remains to be seen. At the least, Asean can no longer ignore the Burmese issue and political developments there. Asean needs to reappraise and, if need be, to forge a common strategy in engaging Burma more seriously when its foreign ministers meet in mid-July in Jakarta.

One of the options is to initiate dialogue between Asean and Suu Kyi, after years of negligence. Such action would strengthen her demand for a meaningful dialogue with the military leaders.

Asean's recognition of Suu Kyi will be a positive step in bringing pressure to bear on Slorc. After all, Asean together with Japan do have considerable leverage against the regime. Postponing Burma's observer status in Asean and membership in the upcoming Asean Regional Forum is an additional bargaining chip.

It is interesting to note that Asean has never adopted a common position on Burma, especially on the constructive engagement policy. This policy was first pronounced by Thailand in July 1991 in Kuala Lumpur in defending its support of Slorc against growing criticism of Asean's Western dialogue partners at the time.

Since then, this policy has been mentioned or used by Asean leaders sparingly. Each Asean country continues to pursue its policy of Burma to ensure maximum benefit for itself, and its trade and investments. Likewise, Asean has never criticised Slorc. Among the dialogue partners, Japan has maintained the highest profile in trade and economic cooperation.

In return, Burma has been trying to maximise its association with Asean. Rangoon thought at the time that Suu Kyi's freedom would win over Asean and gain it observer status in Asean and a seat in the second Asian Regional Forum in Brunei last year. To Slorc, it would serve as a rubber stamp for the much-needed legitimacy. But it did not happen.

Most of the Western friends of Asean have now pursued a policy that essentially follows in Asean's footsteps. They said that they have common objectives to see a democratic Burma. They also agreed to disagree on their approach toward Burma.

Some key political figures in the US have advocated strong measures against Slorc for last week's crack-down. But this pressure has yet to translate into a tangible policy against Slorc. For instance, Senator Mitch McConnell, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, has called for all-out trade sanctions against Burma. In the past, former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans had insisted that Rangoon be set a series of benchmarks in exchange for international acceptance. Releasing Suu Kyi was but a small step toward that objective.

Granted their close ties Slorc, Japan and Asean could have done more to positively influence the future course there. At the least, they should hold firm that any deterioration of the current political situation will not be welcome and it could affect Burma's desire to integrate with the regional grouping.

Strategically speaking, both Japan and Asean see eye to eye that Burma is too important to be left alone and excluded from the Asean Regional Forum. They learned one hard lesson that leaving Burma out in the cold was to leave the door open for China to play a more dominant role there. In a similar vein, India, which used to strongly oppose Slorc, turned around and in 1994 began to court the regime as a balance to China.

In the final analysis, Japan and Asean can not go on backing Slorc for the sake of countering the Chinese influence or merely to prove the West wrong. They have to take into consideration the public sentiment and the opposition's legitimacy.

After all, a future Asean member that is popularly supported by the Burmese people would be an asset. A pariah nation joining Asean would be a shame and undermine the organisation's credibility.

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Thailand: Daily Urges Burmese Junta To Listen to 'the World'

BK2705042596 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
27 May 96 p A4

[Editorial: "Burmese Leaders Take a Bullet in the Foot"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since her release last July, Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has come under increasing pressure to do something other than haplessly wave olive branches at the military government. Eight years after the military crushed a popular uprising and installed itself in power, it seemed to be finally gaining the upper hand in its struggle with Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD).

Foreign investment had begun to surge, Rangoon's leaders had been accepted to various regional and international forums, many of the warring ethnic groups had agreed to stop fighting and most civic dissent had been effectively snuffed out by the junta's pervasive security network.

By the beginning of this year some Suu Kyi supporters were even beginning to express disenchantment with her leadership. A potent political symbol while under house arrest, Suu Kyi, it was said, didn't have the ruthlessness needed for Asian-style power politics.

The overriding feeling evoked by Burma was no longer indignity but resignation.

In the last four days, however, the momentum appears to have swung back again. Slorc [State Law and Order Restoration Council] is on the defensive and squirming under the international spotlight. As if to form, it wasn't anything that Suu Kyi did so much as the junta's gross over-reaction that stirred international outrage.

Apparently panicked by Suu Kyi's call for an NLD assembly of delegates who won seats in the 1990 election, Slorc rounded up at least 238 of the officials as well as 24 ordinary party supporters. In some cases, they arrested delegates' wives when the wanted NLD officials couldn't be found.

The crackdown prevented Suu Kyi from holding a full conference, which was only ever going to be a symbolic challenge anyway, and handed her a huge public relations victory.

Diplomats from several Western embassies showed up at the congress. But more significantly they were joined in Suu Kyi's compound by representatives from two of Slorc's most crucial diplomatic and trading partners — Japan and Thailand.

The appearance of envoys from Tokyo and Bangkok is enormously damaging to Slorc because key to its

survival are not only questions of guns and butter, but also the bigger issue of legitimacy.

It is this matter that will decide the fate of the junta and it is one that no longer has so much to do with the election held in 1990 as to who the world perceives realistically represents the Burmese people in 1996.

Slorc's leaders believed they had done enough by throwing open the economy to foreign investors to win over the stomachs and minds of the Burmese people. But their behaviour is so repugnant and uncompromising that they make it difficult for foreign governments to comfortably deal with them.

The roundup was such a heavy-handed action that it undermined all Slorc's claims to represent the will of the people. It showed them up for what they are — a government that lives and rules by fear.

It also prompted old international foes like Washington to step up their diplomatic offensive.

Suu Kyi has repeatedly stressed the need to increase the pressure on Slorc. Her stated goal is not the destruction of Slorc or the Union of Burma but reconciliation of its many conflicting parties.

The world is once again listening, even Thailand. Perhaps it is time for the generals to open their eyes and ears to this modest message as well. Suu Kyi has repeatedly stressed the need to increase the pressure on Slorc. Her stated goal is not the destruction of Slorc or the Union of Burma but reconciliation of its many conflicting parties.

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Thailand: Burmese Opposition Critical of ASEAN Response to Arrests

BK2805051396 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
28 May 96 p A2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Exiled Burmese opposition members expressed strong disappointment yesterday that Asean nations have remained silent about the ongoing military crackdown in Burma.

They also criticized the international community for its lack of an immediate response to the arrest and detention of over 250 members of the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) since last Monday by the Burmese junta.

Tin Maung Win, vice president of the Democratic Alliance of Burma, which is a platform of a dozen of

exiled Burmese dissidents and ethnic groups, said he was "discouraged and saddened" that only five nations had stood up to condemn the action of the ruling Burmese regime known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc).

He said if the arrests of a similar number of MPs took place in countries like Malaysia or Thailand, "the whole country would be outraged" and the world community would vocalise their condemnation of the action".

"But now it is happening in Burma, and it's so unfair about what is happening," Tin Maung Win, together with two other exiled NLD MPs and a representative of the Pa-O ethnic group, said yesterday in Bangkok.

He urged Asean countries to speak up against Slorc's suppression of the pro-democratic movement in Burma.

"I'm very, very discouraged and so saddened that Asean nations are distancing themselves and remaining silent over the recent developments (in Burma). I think if they (Asean members) are really democratic countries, they should be more vocal about condemning this outrageous action," he said.

Maung Maung Aye and Teddy Buri, two of the 18 exiled NLD MPs who fled Burma and now take refuge in India, Thailand and the United States, urged the international community to join with domestic Burmese pressure and put forward harsher measures to force Slorc into dialogue with the opposition and ethnic groups.

Maung Maung Aye said pressure from the world community "is very crucial at this stage" in order to force Slorc into releasing all political prisoners and these latest detainees, and to engaged the opposition in political dialogue.

He suggested that the international community boycott Slorc's campaign for a "Visit Myanmar (Burma) Year", discourage foreign investment in the Southeast Asian country, as well as refusing visas for the ruling Burmese military.

Tin Maung Win urged Asean, especially Thailand, to review its "constructive engagement" policy towards Burma, saying the recent mass arrests have proved that the controversial approach "was a total failure".

Also in Bangkok, about 50 Burmese students and dissidents staged a protest in front of the Burmese Embassy yesterday afternoon, the second rally in less than a week to protest at the Slorc crackdown.

Thailand: Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Burma's NLD Congress

BK2805075996 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 May 96 p 7

[Report by Nutsara Sawatsawang]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand was the only ASEAN member that sent a representative to the opening on Sunday of the congress of Burma's opposition party, Foreign Ministry spokesman Suraphong Chaianam said yesterday.

A Rangoon-based Thai diplomat joined counterparts from Japan, the United States, France, Britain, Germany and Italy at the opening of the National League for Democracy [NLD] congress that went ahead despite the arrest of most of its elected members.

The Burmese government had not banned the meeting at the lakeside home of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the spokesman said.

It was the duty of diplomats to "observe" events in countries where they were stationed, as the Burmese embassy in Bangkok would be entitled to observe the Bangkok governor's elections, the spokesman added.

Diplomats from other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations had also been invited to the NLD event but none went, he said.

Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam are the other ASEAN members.

The Thai government, which has been heavily criticised for its "constructive engagement" with the ruling junta in Rangoon, is also the only ASEAN government to have expressed concern about the arrests.

Mr Suraphong stressed on May 22 that Thailand favoured dialogue for national reconciliation among Burmese and opposed use of force in the country's democratisation process.

The spokesman yesterday expressed hope Thailand's expression of concern would not affect its relations with Burma.

"We ask for significant dialogue between the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] and Aung San Suu Kyi, but we will not intervene as to how the dialogue takes place.

"Our concerns are not an interference," he said. Human rights were a "universal issue over which no one can have sole authority".

But the spokesman reacted cautiously to an American bid to rally Asians, Europeans, and "other friends" in a "coordinated response" to the events in Burma.

Thailand would have to consult its ASEAN partners, he said of the White House decision to send an envoy for the purpose.

Burma's military intelligence chief Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt issued a thinly veiled attack on the US in a speech reported in the official press yesterday.

"There is a group of persons in Myanmar (Burma) swaying to the enticement of a big nation which is attempting to bring Myanmar under its influence in the pretext of democracy and human rights," Reuters quoted him as saying.

But the Thai foreign ministry spokesman said the future of Burma in ASEAN was unlikely to be affected because the arrests were regarded as an internal affair.

"It is up to individual ASEAN states to assess how recent events in Burma have affected the country's stability, and how this would affect the stability of the region as a whole," he said.

Burma is expected to be granted observer status to ASEAN when the group's foreign ministers meet in Indonesia in July. Burma is also expected to join 18 other Asia-Pacific countries in an ASEAN regional security forum.

Although heavily criticised for its dialogue with the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council in Rangoon, Thailand has also kept in touch with the regime's opposition.

Thailand's Ambassador to Rangoon Poksak Nilubon was the first ASEAN ambassador to visit Mrs Suu Kyi after she was released from almost six years of house arrest last July.

Suu Kyi predicted yesterday that the military regime would detain some of her jailed supporters indefinitely and said her personal assistant had been thrown into a prison notorious for torture.

Suu Kyi gave a tea for reporters and answered questions after the second day of an opposition conference that the ruling junta had arrested at least 262 members of her National League for Democracy.

Among the detainees were 238 delegates to the conference, which was to unite surviving opposition candidates who won 392 of 486 seats in parliamentary elections May 27, 1990. The regime never honoured the election results, and many of the winning candidates already had been killed, jailed or driven into exile.

"There are indications that the authorities are going to keep the elected representatives for much longer than we thought," Suu Kyi said. "Some delegates have had charges placed against them."

The charges probably would stem from emergency powers laws, which give the military authority to hold a detainee indefinitely for reasons of national security, Suu Kyi said.

Suu Kyi said that it was "almost certain" that Win Htein, her personal assistant and several members of the party's youth wing had been transferred to the notorious Insein Prison near Rangoon.

Win Htein was taken into custody the day after he notified the international media last week of the mass roundup aimed at stalling the meeting, which comes on the sixth anniversary of the elections and was seen as a symbolic challenge to the legitimacy of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Thailand: Editorial on Burmese Arrests of Suu Kyi Supporters

*BK2705034596 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 27 May 96 p 4*

[Editorial: "Rangoon Risks All With Unwise Wave of Arrests"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is difficult to know what the Burmese dictators are thinking of in their new intimidation of the country's main pro-democracy party. The detention of more than 200 supporters of Aung San Suu Kyi puts new focus and lends new urgency to the campaign for a free Burma. The Rangoon regime's aim was to halt the weekend's long-scheduled meeting of Mrs Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy [NLD]. It has risked much by its ill-advised actions.

In the event, the NLD meeting got under way as scheduled, although tensely. Most of its members who were elected to parliament six years ago were missing, held at junta gunpoint. Rangoon has called worldwide attention to its own brutal methods. In Bangkok and elsewhere in the world, demonstrations were held by sympathizers of Mrs Suu Kyi and Burmese democrats. Many governments protested, from the US to Australia, and from Tokyo to London.

Of course, the furtive State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) itself will not reveal its intentions. Absurdly, Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw, who was in Japan when the detentions began, said reports from Rangoon of the detention were "fabricated." He will need a lot of luck to sell that line. Nor was it, as the foreign minister claimed, "difficult to verify what leaders of the (opposition) party including Aung San Suu Kyi are saying." If the minister had turned on the television in his luxury hotel suite, he could have seen Mrs Suu Kyi speaking for herself. Instead, he

demonstrated how far behind the times the Rangoon leadership really is.

Firsthand accounts from Rangoon described the mood as "grim." News of the detentions spread fear of new political turmoil and violence. An article in state-controlled newspapers last Wednesday warned NLD supporters against holding their weekend congress. The ominous SLORC warning said the meeting would be illegal, meaningless and "also extremely dangerous for them."

Mrs Suu Kyi maintained her wellknown calm and optimism. With her own survival once again threatened, she managed the type of quip which has earned her admiration and the Nobel Peace Prize. "If they want to arrest me, they can arrest me," she told a reporter. "I'm always here."

SLORC has refused to deal with this fact since 1990, when the NLD won Burmese elections by an overwhelming majority. Even if SLORC violence wipes out the party, the pro-democracy mood of the country will not go away. Mrs Suu Kyi's attempts to negotiate national reconciliation and political progress have been rejected by the junta. Just as seriously for Rangoon, the military leaders have rejected attempts by others to promote improvement.

SLORC has made it difficult to support Burmese attempts to enter the world and global economy. Japanese Ambassador to Rangoon Yoichi Yamaguchi was negotiating between SLORC and Mrs Suu Kyi only hours before the new wave of detentions began. The shuttle talks by the Japanese envoy were specifically approved by Rangoon leaders.

Not that this is anything new for the junta. It has embarrassed many attempts to help Rangoon improve its image by conciliatory discussions. Even Thailand's questionable policy of "constructive engagement" with Burma has been attacked and insulted. Successive Thai governments have risked their very popularity with voters by dubious support of Burmese policy. Our governments and our people have been slandered for their trouble.

SLORC's actions in the next few days will be important. Although we have little hope Rangoon will listen, we hope the regime will reverse itself and defuse the anxiety. At the least, it should release the detained NLD members and allow the party to meet in peace. If the unthinkable occurs, and Mrs Suu Kyi is arrested once again or the regime acts violently against her, SLORC will risk everything.

So long as there is hope for reconciliation in Burma, Rangoon will have a chance to continue its slow,

controversial gains in the world community. It is unlikely such rewards could continue if SLORC again turns brutal. The regime's release of Mrs Suu Kyi from house arrest last year resulted in some acceptance of the junta by its neighbours and others. Any reversal of that policy will be met by major outcry.

The Rangoon regime must realize, and then accept, that Burmese have the right to choose both their own system of government and leaders. As Lord Buddha pointed out, the only thing constant in our world is change. SLORC and the dictatorship are not immune to this law. The only question is how change will come to Burma's political landscape. One can only hope it will come peacefully. Cordial negotiations on national reconciliation should be the goal of all Burmese.

Vietnam

SRV: Hanoi Praises Appointment of U.S. Ambassador Peterson

*BK2805104996 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 28 May 96*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Last week, U.S. President Clinton officially appointed Mr. Peter Peterson, a member of the Legislative Lower House from Florida, as the first U.S. ambassador to Vietnam. This is our comment:

The appointment of the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam is a positive step, contributing to promoting bilateral relationship. This move is a follow-up step in the normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam which started a year ago.

A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said Vietnam highly appreciated the U.S. President's decision to appoint Mr. Peter Peterson as its ambassador to Vietnam. According to Mr. Nguyen Nhu Phong, director of the Department of North America of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, the official decision on the appointment of the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam will be made by the Senate's External Relations Committee. Vietnam is waiting for this decision.

Mr. Peter Peterson is considered by the American political circles as having played an active role, together with President Clinton, in making the decision on normalization of relations with Vietnam. He once stated: I do not live with the past.

The approval of the appointment of the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam will facilitate U.S. investment and business in Vietnam. The United States has risen to sixth on the list of foreign investors in Vietnam with 67 projects and a total investment capital of \$1.2 billion.

SRV: Prime Minister Meets With Bulgaria's Videnov

DL2405154896 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As reported earlier, Prime Minister Zhan Videnov, his wife, and other members of the Bulgarian delegation have arrived in Hanoi to begin an official visit to Vietnam at the invitation of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

A solemn reception was held this morning at the Presidential Palace Square with the highest-level formalities of state. At 0900 sharp, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet invited Prime Minister Zhan Videnov to mount the reviewing stand. A military band played the national anthems of Bulgaria and Vietnam. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet invited Prime Minister Zhan Videnov to review the Vietnam People's Army honor guard and meet government officials present at the reception.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held talks with Prime Minister Zhan Videnov at the Presidential Palace after the reception ceremony. Present at the meeting were Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, Deputy Finance Minister Pham Van Trong, Vietnamese Ambassador to Bulgaria Ho Xo Viet, and other officials. At the meeting, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet heartily welcomed Prime Minister Zhan Videnov, his wife, and the honored Bulgarian guests on their first official friendship visit to Vietnam. He called the visit a vivid demonstration of the fine and friendly relations between the two countries and a foundation for the development and expansion of these relations.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet briefed Prime Minister Zhan Videnov on the achievements of the Vietnamese people in the past 10 years of renovation and the results of our wide-open, diversified, and multilateral foreign policy. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said:

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] The Vietnamese Government heartily welcomes and highly values the visit by his excellency the prime minister. Our two countries have enjoyed time-tested and friendly relations and cooperation. We highly value the valuable support and assistance that Bulgaria gave Vietnam during its national protection and construction undertaking. We are delighted to see that in the recent past our friendship and cooperation have made positive developments. We trust that our countries have great potential and favorable conditions for development and mutual support.

Vietnam and Bulgaria have been able to restore and accelerate cooperation in various areas where the two sides cooperated effectively before, such as the provision of fertilizer, chemicals, medicine, light industrial goods,

rubber plantation and processing, coffee, mulberry cultivation, and so forth. We already have an intergovernmental committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technological cooperation. We will strive to make the activities of this committee more effective and practical and to build appropriate cooperation patterns for the new period. We must also prepare urgently to sign more agreements and establish a legal framework for cooperation between the two countries. The two states should have suitable measures to encourage and support their localities, organizations, and businesses in cooperating directly. There are also options for us to develop cultural, scientific, educational, and tourism cooperation, thus widening the interaction between the two countries.

As close friends of the Bulgarian people, we always follow with keen interest the process of national construction and development in Bulgaria. We are pleased to note that the Bulgarian people have recorded initial yet significant results in stabilizing the situation, promoting economic development, and implementing a foreign policy of peace and cooperation. It is my belief that there are new opportunities for Vietnam and Bulgaria to broaden bilateral ties and promote regional cooperation. [end recording]

The talks took place amid an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet exchanged views on orientations and measures to promote multifaceted bilateral cooperation.

Speaking on this occasion, Prime Minister Zhan Videnov said:

[Videnov, in Bulgarian fading into Vietnamese report] Your Excellency Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, ladies, and gentlemen, may I express my sincere thanks to you for allowing me to make an official visit at a time when preparations for the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam are under way. I would like to thank the host country for a very warm welcome. We attach great importance to this visit as well as our talks and meetings with the leaders of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Bulgaria has made it a top priority to promote relations with countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It is our intention to continue this policy in the future. Our goal has remained unchanged despite numerous political changes in our country and in the Balkans and other parts of the world.

Next, Prime Minister Zhan Videnov discussed the general situation in Bulgaria, particularly the achievements the Bulgarian people have recorded since 1995 in restoring and renovating socioeconomic development; enhancing Bulgaria's position; and contributing to the

struggle for peace, cooperation, and development in the Balkans, Europe, and other parts of the world.

Prime Minister Zhan Videnov expressed satisfaction at the friendship and all-around cooperation between Vietnam and Bulgaria. He reiterated his desire to consolidate and broaden these mutually beneficial and cooperative ties further. He also suggested orientations and measures to promote multifaceted cooperation between the two countries on the economic, trade, scientific and technological, cultural, and educational fronts to serve the two peoples' development goals and interests in a realistic way and contribute to the struggle for peace and cooperation among nations in the world.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet concurred with Prime Minister Zhan Videnov's suggestions on the need to promote cooperation in the aforementioned fields.

Following the talks, Vietnamese Deputy Finance Minister Pham Van Trong and Bulgarian Deputy Finance Minister (Nibonigebachev) signed an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation on incomes. Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien and (Peantodorov), the Bulgarian first deputy foreign minister, signed a bilateral cultural and scientific cooperation program for the 1996-98 period. The signing was witnessed by the two prime ministers.

This afternoon, after touring the Orion Hanel joint venture at the Sai Dong Industrial Zone in Gia Lam, Hanoi, Prime Minister Zhan Videnov paid a courtesy call on President Le Duc Anh at the Presidential Palace and was cordially received by General Secretary Do Muoi at 1700.

SRV: Vo Van Kiet Hosts Banquet for Bulgaria's Videnov

BK2505094696 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife held a solemn banquet at the Government Guest House in honor of Prime Minister Zhan Videnov, his wife, and other Bulgarian guests.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet delivered a speech at the banquet to welcome the prime minister of the Republic of Bulgaria on his official friendship visit to Vietnam. The speech reads:

Vietnam and Bulgaria have a time-tested and traditional friendship and have enjoyed fine cooperation over many decades. The people of Vietnam always remember the valuable support and assistance given by the brotherly Bulgarian people to Vietnam during the national protection and construction undertaking. As close friends of the Bulgarian people, Vietnamese people always fol-

low, with profound sentiments and genuine happiness, the progress achieved by the Bulgarian people in the economic and social reforms, the maintenance of political stability, and the improvement of the people's livelihood. We welcome the efforts of Bulgaria in contributing to the consolidation of peace, stability, and cooperation in the Balkans, Europe, and the world, as well as the Bulgarian effort to develop cooperative and friendly relations with nations in Southeast Asia and Asia Pacific. I am certain that this visit by His Excellency Prime Minister, together with the high-level agreement we have reached and the important documents signed this morning, will open bright prospects for the friendly and cooperative relations between Vietnam and Bulgaria to be lifted to a new height, thus responding to the aspirations and interests of the two peoples for the cause of peace, cooperation, and development in the region and the world.

In his reply, the Bulgarian prime minister said:

Please allow me to express my most sincere thank for the hospitable and amicable reception you have given us. We consider your reception to be a demonstration of the traditional and friendly relations between close friends who have shared wealth and woe, exemplifying the time-tested unity between the two countries and peoples. I would also like to express my pleasure at seeing the achievements of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the renovation undertaking. Your achievements are genuinely praiseworthy. I am delighted to be able to point to new favorable possibilities for the development of the traditional friendship between Bulgaria and Vietnam. The outcome of the official meeting today, the documents we have signed, and our agreement to seek and enforce new cooperation forms the foundation for such an affirmation. We have not yet utilized all the economic potential of our countries or the experiences we have learned from many years of cooperation. All these factors contribute to build up trust and partnership.

Another significant point for our visit is that we come here on 24 May, the day of the Slavic script and Bulgarian culture, the most sacred day of our people. On this occasion, please allow me to convey my warmest greetings to thousands of Vietnamese citizens who had been trained in Bulgaria, and who are presently contributing their talents and prestige to the rapid development and prosperity of your beautiful country.

SRV: Bulgaria's Videnov Holds News Conference in Hanoi

BK2505162896 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 May 96

[Report on news conference held by Bulgarian Prime Minister Videnov in Hanoi on 24 May]

[FBIS Translated Text] After a day of activity, including high-level talks and meetings with Vietnamese party and state leaders, in the evening of 24 May, Bulgarian Prime Minister Zhan Videnov and the distinguished guests of the visiting Bulgarian delegation held a press conference to announce the results of the first day of their working visit in Vietnam. Many international and national reporters from mass media agencies attended the conference. They asked many questions relating to the Bulgaria-Vietnam relations.

At the conference, Prime Minister Videnov gladly informed the reporters of the fine results of his SRV visit and hailed the hospitality given to him and his entourage by the Vietnamese party and state leaders and people. On the traditional relations between Vietnam and Bulgaria, the prime minister said:

[Begin Videnov in Bulgarian fading into Vietnamese report] The friendship relations between Bulgaria and Vietnam are fine time-honored ones. In 1950, Bulgaria was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with Vietnam. In the next few dozen years after that, Bulgaria always gave Vietnam thorough and hearty support. In recent years, relations between our two countries have developed satisfactorily. Dozens of citizens of the two countries have established contacts and integrated their lives with each other's country. This represents an acceleration of the development in bilateral relations.

Our Bulgarian Government is paying special attention to this Vietnam visit, which is held 12 years after the previous one. Through negotiations and contacts, we know that the Vietnamese side also attaches great attention to this visit. The two sides have held high-level contacts and exchanges with good results. They are striving for the development of the bilateral relations.

Our delegation visits Vietnam when the eighth national congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam is being prepared. This also is significant. [end recording]

Prime minister Videnov also described Bulgaria's open-door policy and the policy for the acceleration of cooperative relations with Vietnam, which is considered as one of important targets in the coming period by the Bulgarian Government and people. He said:

[Begin Videnov in Bulgarian fading into Vietnamese report] The priority in Bulgaria's current foreign policy

is to try to accelerate the comprehensive relations in Europe and become a full member of the European Union. Together with this priority, we also attach great importance to the development of relations with all nations far and near in the world. In our traditional ties with friends in other regions, we consider Vietnam as one of our respected friends and we wish to maintain this relationship.

In answer to a question from the correspondent from a new Bulgarian television station on some concrete steps in the future bilateral relations, Prime Minister Videnov said:

[Begin Videnov in Bulgarian fading into Vietnamese report] We agreed on the organization of the meeting for the Intergovernmental Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation in the coming period. The Bulgarian suggestion is that the meeting should be held late this year in Sofia. The two sides realized that the meeting should be held late this year to settle all issues, beginning with the issues of investment security or investment fund. This is very necessary for bilateral cooperative relations, especially in the mechanical field and in the supply of complete equipment and other equipment. The two sides also discussed the settlement of mutual debts. The settlement of debts is beneficial for the acceleration of trade relations and other relations for mutual benefit. Today, the two sides signed a program for the cultural, educational, and technical cooperation.

In answer to a question from the QUAN DOI NHAN DAN correspondent on experiences that can be exchanged by the two countries on economic reform, prime minister stated:

[Begin Videnov in Bulgarian fading into Vietnamese report] For us, the Vietnamese experience on agriculture development is very precious, especially the development of creativity by farming households and state enterprises to attract foreign investment. Another of Vietnam's useful experiences for us to learn about is the integration into the most dynamic region of the world, that is, becoming an ASEAN member. Bulgaria is striving to integrate into European organizations, especially the European Union. From the Vietnamese experience, we clearly understand this issue.

We also pay particular attention to your renovative policy, which contributes to peace and stability in the region and the world. Vietnam wants to become a friend with all nations. Even with countries that used to cause grief and bereavement to Vietnam, Vietnam still strives to improve and normalize relations with them.

These are our initial remarks on your renovation undertaking. We also know that the upcoming eighth na-

tional congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam will be an important political event to create conditions for national development. This is the occasion to review realities and it will be very beneficial for national development.

After that, Prime Minister Videnov and the Bulgarian minister for commerce and international relations answered questions relating to the settlement of debts between the two countries, the upcoming presidential election in Bulgaria, and other issues of mutual concern.

Of course, we also pay special attention to the high-level political contacts and exchanges between the two countries. This lays a fine foundation for the upcoming Vietnam visit by our National Assembly delegation led by the National Assembly speaker. Under this direction, we suggested that the Intergovernmental Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation between the two countries be held this September so that the bilateral relations between the two countries can be strongly accelerated. We would also like to emphasize that the trade relations between the two countries enjoy a great potential. This is another condition for the acceleration of relations between the two countries. Together with the exchange of traditional relations, we can accelerate other trade relations and establish cooperative relations in commerce.

SRV: Bulgaria's Videnov Briefs Businessmen on Results of Visit

*BK2705042296 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Bulgarian Prime Minister Zhan Videnov and his entourage laid wreathes this morning [25 May] at President Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and visited Uncle Ho's living and work places. Afterwards, Prime Minister Videnov attended a meeting with almost 100 Vietnamese and Bulgarian businessmen organized by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Government Guest House in Hanoi.

At the meeting, Prime Minister Zhan Videnov briefed the businessmen on the results of his visit to Vietnam. He asserted that these achievements will be a basis for accelerating bilateral economic and trade relations for the development of both nations. Prime Minister Videnov briefed the Vietnamese businessmen on the Bulgarian Government's efforts on economic reform to expand international trade and business relations, especially with the EU and the Southeast Asian region. He also briefed them on Bulgaria's economic potential, its capabilities in cooperating with Vietnam in such fields as chemical industry, machine manufacturing, agricul-

tural engineering, uniform equipment, and especially the food processing industry and agricultural mechanism.

Prime Minister Videnov expressed the belief that the mutual attention of the two countries and efforts by the Bulgaria-Vietnam Intergovernmental Committee at its conference in Sofia this September to find a solution to the settlement and transport of goods will create favorable conditions for Vietnamese businessmen to expand trade and goods exchange with Bulgaria in the days ahead. Answering Vietnamese businessmen's question regarding the prospect of Bulgaria's continued investment in coffee plantation in Vietnam and on the international legal environment for trade relations in Bulgaria, Prime Minister Videnov asserted that Bulgaria can continue with this investment, but the form of investment should be determined by the upcoming conference of the Bulgaria-Vietnam Intergovernmental Committee. We may invest in the nonrefundable form, while letting Vietnamese businessmen invest in the new plantation and processing of coffee. Concerning the legal domain, he said that Bulgaria is ready to create conditions for the Vietnamese businessmen to trade and exchange goods with Bulgaria in the most favorable fashion.

Prime Minister Videnov, his wife, and the distinguished Bulgarian guests left Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh City on the afternoon of the same day to continue their official friendship visit to Vietnam.

The official farewell ceremony for the Bulgarian prime minister was solemnly held at the Government Guest House. Attending the function were: Planning and Investment Minister Do Quoc Sam, Industry Minister Dang Vu Chu, Hanoi People's Committee Chairman Hoang Van Nghien, Vietnamese Ambassador to Bulgaria Ho So Viet, and many other high-ranking government officials.

At the ceremony, Minister Do Quoc Sam, on behalf of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, thanked the Bulgarian prime minister for his visit to Vietnam. He said that the visit, though short, has recorded many fine achievements, thereby marking a significant step in strengthening the multifaceted cooperation between the two nations, especially in the economic domain. The minister wished the Bulgarian prime minister success in his tour of Ho Chi Minh City so as to understand more about development in Vietnam.

Prime Minister Videnov thanked the Vietnamese Government for its warm welcome. He said that this visit is of significant importance and has recorded many achievements. Prime Minister Videnov expressed the belief that Vietnam, at this very dynamic developmental stage, will record ever greater achievements in all

domains. He hoped that, on the basis of long-standing relations, Vietnam and Bulgaria will promote closer cooperation for further development in the days ahead.

SRV: Bulgarian Prime Minister Concludes Visit

BK2605160196 Hanoi VNA in English

1424 GMT 26 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 26 — Bulgarian Prime Minister Zhan Videnov, his wife, and entourage left Ho Chi Minh City today, ending their three-day official visit to Vietnam.

While in Ho Chi Minh City on May 25-26, the Bulgarian prime minister and his party were received by Chairman of the Municipal People's Committee Truong Tan Sang who expressed wishes that the cooperative ties in

economy, commerce, and investment between Vietnam and Bulgaria would be steadily developed, especially at this time when the two countries are recording increasing economic growth rate. He said he believed that Bulgaria would be one of the major trade partners of Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh City in particular.

The Bulgarian prime minister highly valued the city's economic potential and wanted to boost the friendship and cooperation with Vietnam for the benefit of the two Bulgarian and Vietnamese peoples and for the two nations' prosperity.

He called at the Tan Thuan export processing zone before departure.

Australia

Australia: Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD Congress Meeting Viewed

BK2705095996 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0630 GMT 27 May 96

[From the "International Report" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Today is the sixth anniversary of the elections which gave Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy [NLD] a landslide victory. Results of those elections were ignored by the ruling military junta but six years on Burma's opposition is dramatically stepping up political pressure on the military government by calling a series of party congresses and setting out guidelines for their own constitution. Democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi drew her biggest crowd yet when she went ahead with the first meeting despite the arrest of most of the elected politicians who are due to attend. A few hundred party members and elected MP's who survived the roundup began a process Ms Suu Kyi describes as charting the course of the campaign for democracy in Burma. Evan Williams reports from Rangoon the arrests have prompted Washington to dispatch a special envoy to develop a coordinated international response.

[Begin recording] [Williams] After days of arrests aimed at making the meeting impossible or at least meaningless, democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi came out fighting. With almost every delegate detained, she admits it is not the congress of elected NLD MP's as planned but says instead it might become just the first in a series of such NLD meetings. That sets the opposition on the path of future confrontations with the government now having to decide if it will let the meetings go ahead or go through the same damaging crackdown on elected MP's next time they want to meet. Suu Kyi launched the congress with a sharp reminder of one of its main aims — to remind Burma and the world that six years ago her party won a landslide election victory still ignored by the army but she says still valid.

[Aung San Suu Kyi] However much they may try to ignore the results of the elections, they will not be able to annihilate the desire for democracy that has taken root in the hearts of our people. That is why, however many years may have passed the importance of these elections will not diminish.

[Williams] That may be optimistic as the military keeps ignoring her and the opposition, and thanks to new foreign business coming in instead, the few changes now mount a process which she cannot reverse. The first meeting's main focus is to develop policy platforms in politics, economics, and human rights. It is hard to see

how any such policies will have any impact while she is ignored in opposition. But Suu Kyi's most provocative policy and possibly one of the main reasons for the crackdown is the meeting's aim to form an outline for a new Burmese constitution. That is a direct challenge to the military's own [word indistinct] plans to a bill that will give them substantial political power for new elections. And while some opposition figures dubbed the meeting a parallel government, Suu Kyi moves her congress with a clear sign she is stepping up organized opposition pressure.

[Aung San Suu Kyi] Since the 1990 elections, the people of Burma have suffered greatly for lack of democratic rights. That is why the desire for democracy is stronger now than it was six years ago, and for that reason the NLD has decided to increase our actions to fulfill the will of the people and to bring about national reconciliation.

[Williams] She is still inviting authorities to dialogue but the message is if they do not talk, embarrassing incidents like the congress will increase. That could force the army to meet or re-detain her.

[Aung San Suu Kyi] All attempts to cast aside the results of the 1990 elections are illegal and opposed to the will of the people and cannot affect our country in any way. We cannot build the future of our country on a foundation of broken promises, insults to the people's elected representatives, and opposition to the will of the people.

[Williams] That will also anger the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] regime which shows little sign of wanting to compromise and none at all on handing over power. After rounding up almost all elected MP's, the regime has been lenient in at least allowing the meeting to go ahead hoping (?in turn) it will mean little but the crackdown has started a new momentum in Burma. On Sunday Suu Kyi drew up to 10,000 people to her usual afternoon event. It is the biggest crowd so far, revealing strong public support and a new willingness by some at least to show it. [end recording]

Australia: Burma's Suu Kyi Urges Junta To Convene Parliament

BK2705132096 Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING
HERALD in English 27 May 96

[Report by Mark Baker]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Burmese resistance leader, Ms Aung San Suu Kyi, accused the country's military regime yesterday of holding power illegally and

promised a national campaign to force a return to democracy.

In defiance of a crackdown in which at least 258 of her supporters have been detained, Ms Suu Kyi called on the international community to intensify pressure on the junta.

About 300 officials and members of her National League for Democracy [NLD] yesterday began a three-day meeting — their first formal congress since the party won a landslide election victory in 1990 and was then barred from power by the military.

Despite official threats to stop the meeting and the arrest of most of the party's MP's, Ms Suu Kyi pledged to press ahead with plans for a new party platform and nationwide meetings of members and supporters.

This is Ms Suu Kyi's strongest challenge to the regime since her release from six years of house arrest last July. Diplomats fear a showdown which could result in the banning of the NLD and the renewed detention of the Nobel peace laureate.

"All attempts to cast aside the results of the 1990 elections are illegal and opposed to the will of the people," Ms Suu Kyi said in her opening address.

"We cannot build the future of our country on a foundation of broken promises, insults to the people's elected representatives and opposition to the will of the people."

She said the desire of the Burmese people for democracy had grown stronger since 1990, and the regime must act to acknowledge the NLD victory and convene the elected parliament as soon as possible.

"It is the duty not only of the people of Burma but also the peoples of the world to try to bring about implementation of the results of the 1990 election," she said.

"However much the authorities may try to ignore the results of the elections, they will not be able to annihilate the desire for democracy that has taken root in the hearts of our people."

But the junta, which has declared the election invalid and banned political gatherings, has warned of further retaliation if the NLD continues its defiance.

Party officials confirmed that 258 NLD members had been arrested since last week, including 233 elected MP's, 18 members of the youth wing and six party workers.

In an official newspaper commentary published yesterday, the regime accused Ms Suu Kyi of being a sor-

ceress, said her supporters were "living on the earnings of the weaker sex" and described the NLD as a party "plunged into a life infected with AIDS".

The paper said the military had a duty to rule the country until a new government emerged under the new constitution, which guarantees a central political role for the army and bars Ms Suu Kyi from power.

If she succeeded, all commercial dealings and peaceful social life in the country would be at risk, the commentary warned.

Australia: Burma's SLORC Issues 'Call' for Talks With Suu Kyi

BK2805091096 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0630 GMT 28 May 96

[From the "International Report" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Burma's military government has issued a conciliatory call for talks with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, but with conditions. Departing for the first time from its usual vitriolic attacks on Ms. Suu Kyi, the regime said it was, in theory, open to dialogue with the opposition; but, the generals want Ms. Suu Kyi to accept the role of the army in politics, and they warn against any attempt to pressure the military regime. The move comes as the opposition today winds up its first policy congress — the congress, which sparked a mass detention of elected MPs [Member of Parliament]. Evan Williams reports from Rangoon:

[Begin recording] [Williams] Burma's state-run press usually rails against Suu Kyi and her supporters as anarchists bent on the destruction or recolonization of the country; but in a marked departure from that, the state-controlled Burmese language press has issued a new conciliatory tone from the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] regime. For the first time, addressing Daw Suu with respect, it says in theory the army welcomes the offer of dialogue; but, this has not been possible because it is not sure which way she wants to go. One way, it says, is to annihilate one of the parties, the other, is to recognize the usefulness of all parties and the key to that, it says, is the army's participation in national politics. It says it is necessary for Suu Kyi to now declare which way she wants to go.

[Suu Kyi] They have always said that every group has a role to play in this country, but what this role should be, it is the people who decide.

[Williams] Daw Suu says she does not want preconditions for any talks and she is not going to tell the people to accept any government offer just yet.

[Suu Kyi] We are not going to say anything to the people until we know how sincere these gestures are. Do not forget that there have been other gestures, which came to nothing. For example, the 1990 general election, a big gesture, which has come to nothing so far.

[Williams] By demanding more from the army first, she may stall any real breakthrough, but at the same time the military has only offered a new conciliatory tone. It has not offered any change in substance, it still wants her to accept a military role in politics as the bottom-line in any negotiation. Until now, Suu Kyi is clearly unwilling to compromise and accept that. That does not indicate room for future negotiations.

[Suu Kyi] I think it has already been decided by the people that they do not want military dictatorship. That is certain, but what kind of role they would like the military to play, I think, that will also be decided by how the military behaves.

[Williams] The regime says, and possibly believes, it has to retain some political role, because of what it called Burma's political immaturity. So it calls directly on Suu Kyi to reaffirm her earlier statement that everything including the army's participation in politics is still open to negotiation.

[Suu Kyi] Negotiation is the key word. Let's start with negotiation first. We hope that everything is open in negotiation.

[Williams] But the SLORC is playing a betting game of carrot and stick. It calls on Suu Kyi to practice self-criticism and warns those who use international and domestic pressure that it will keep them in long-term trouble. Separate articles are more strident saying it is now time to annihilate and remove those criticizing the government. The regime's conciliatory tone may only be a temporary painkiller, as well for the momentum its recent mass arrest of NLD [National League for Democracy] representatives had sparked. Suu Kyi wants to see if they are serious about addressing the root cause first. [End recording]

Australia: Minister on Intellectual Piracy in PRC

LD2805092496 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0800 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's Deputy Prime Minister [and Trade Minister], Tim Fischer, says China has

made inadequate progress in dealing with piracy of intellectual property. Mr Fischer told parliament that Australia's trading position was hurt by intellectual piracy.

[Begin Fischer recording] It is true that Beijing will take prompt action with regard to the reproduction of videos and CDs that have a political message or a pornographic message, but, unfortunately, [word indistinct] action is not able to be taken with regard to all the copyright pirating which is taking place. [end recording]

Mr Fischer said Australia supported the U.S. decision to renew most favored nation trade status for China and also the American efforts to combat intellectual piracy in China.

Australia: McLachlan Orders Report on Delayed Radar Project

LD2405133596 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0900 GMT 24 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defense Minister Ian McLachlan has ordered an urgent report on time delays in building Australia's over-the-horizon radar. Mr. McLachlan says he's told the Defense Department he wants the report on the \$1 billion Jindalee project by 14 June. Graeme Dobell reports:

[Dobell] Mr. McLachlan said the over-the-horizon radar network is already three years late and the delay is unsatisfactory. The project for surveillance deep into Southeast Asia has been hit by problems with contractors and a change to digital technology.

Mr. McLachlan said only 25 percent of the software for Jindalee is ready. The defense minister said the project to monitor the 20 million square kilometers to the north of Australia was due to come into service next year but has been delayed to at least the year 2000.

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